

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

“God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother’s authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Sirach 3:2-4

December 28, 2008 A.D.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Parish Office: 1594 Sara Rd SE
(in Panorama Plaza)
Rio Rancho NM
(505) 892-1511 Fax 891-3044
Church & Mailing Address:
1502 Sara Rd SE, Rio Rancho
NM 87124-1848
Office Hours Mon-Fri 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Directory & Mass Schedules page 8
www.stanm.org

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We live a dynamic orthodoxy that is a spirit-filled faithfulness to Jesus Christ and His Gospel and to His Catholic Church and its teachings.



Pastor’s Corner



My dear family,
This Thursday is New Year’s Day, the Feast of the Mother of God. It is a holy day of obligation. All Catholics are bound to attend Mass this day (or on the vigil) under pain of sin. Please see the mass schedule that is printed on the front of the bulletin. Especially note that **there will be a 6:00 pm Mass on New Year’s Day**, for all of you partygoers who like to stay up in see the New Year come in!

Is such a beautiful thing to dedicate the beginning of a New Year

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On the Inside

Solemnity of Mary Holy Day of Obligation December 31st

***Vigil Mass
6:00 p.m.**

January 1st

9:00 a.m.

11:00a.m.

12:30p.m.

6:00p.m.

WELCOME TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
We’re glad you joined us today!
Registration details on page 2

PERPETUAL ADORATION HOURS
Can you keep our Lord company?
Sunday 1 & 2 a.m.
Friday 2 & 5 a.m.
Contacts on page 3

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PASTOR'S CORNER

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to our blessed Mother. Let's make a point of honoring our Lady on this day. I know there have been many holy days of obligation in a very short time, but our Lord and our blessed Mother will reward us for our very faithful attendance at Mass in this holy season.

Today, (December 28) is not only the Feast of the Holy Family, but it is also **the Feast of the Holy Innocents** – those children who were killed by King Herod when he attempted to take the life of the infant Jesus. **It has become a beautiful tradition on this day to commemorate all those children, born or unborn, who have died from any cause. We will have a special service of remembrance for them tonight (Sunday) at 7:30 pm.** (This will not be a Mass, but a scripture and prayer service.) I encourage everyone to come, especially the parents of children who have been called to God. Let us commend all these little children to God, and pray that their parents may find healing.

Again, two gentle reminders. If you have **not yet turned in your tithing intention card** to the parish 2009, please get it in as soon as possible. Also, **if you have not yet had a chance to pay you're A. C. A. pledge** to the Archdiocese, please send it in as soon as you can. Thank you for your help in these matters.

A blessed New Year to everyone!
Monsignor Doug Raun



OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will be closed
December 23rd Noon till January 5th.
However, the phone will be answered on
Dec 29, 30 and 31st

WE WELCOME OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

FUNERALS

Joseph Mignone
Christopher Giron

Please call our Parish Office as soon as possible in order to coordinate liturgical services.

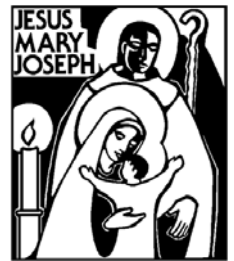
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Every Sunday after 12:30 Mass.
Please call our Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please call our Parish Office four months prior to your wedding day to make arrangements and complete the paperwork.

Let us pray that all
families be like the
Holy Family



SAVE THE HYMNALS & KNEELERS!

Our dear cleaning lady, Ana Andreassen, came to me recently to ask if I would remind people not to put their **gum on the new hymnals, or the pews, or on the carpeting.** Yes, everyone of those happens every weekend! And what is with people who allow the kneelers to drop to the floor or back in their resting position? Please take care of our church and its furnishing! You paid for them!

Next Week's Readings 28 December—4 January

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8,
11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22,
39-40
Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29---3:6/Jn 1:29-34
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

THE ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

The Altar and Rosary Society is **conducting** its Annual Membership Drive this month. We would like to extend an invitation to join our society to all ladies of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish who are 18+ years old and who uphold the teachings of the Magisterium of the Church. For more information or for an application, please call 792-5516 or 792-0663

The Altar & Rosary Society **wishes to thank** all those who donated to the annual 'Toys for Tots' collection earlier this month. May the Lord bless you in the new year!

The Altar & Rosary Society **will be selling religious articles in conjunction with the Cub Scout breakfast** after the 7, 9, & 11 a.m. Masses on Sunday, January 4th. This will be our only sale for the month of January. Come and browse while you enjoy a burrito!



Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. In faith is found the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

-As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, please say a special prayer for the poor.

NURSERY SCHEDULE DETAILS

The nursery is open for **both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.** Masses. Space is limited; come early enough to obtain a spot. The nursery is only for children ages one through three. **Teens who need service hours:** this is a great opportunity for you to accumulate hours and perform a truly rewarding service. If you can **volunteer** to help, please contact **Aud Walaszek** at: 792-8716 or e-mail her at walz11@msn.com.

Steven Woodbury 892-1511 x105

Steven.Woodbury@stanm.org

DECEMBER LITURGICAL EVENTS

31st Solemnity of Mary

*Vigil Mass 6:00 p.m.

JANUARY LITURGICAL EVENTS

1st Solemnity of Mary

9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m., 12:30p.m. and 6:00p.m.

4TH EPIPHANY

Perpetual Adoration Contacts

Pauline Salata: (Midnight-6 a.m.) at 892-0524

Louie & Terry Santa Maria: (6-12 p.m.) at 896-0307

e-mail: flagshipsm12659@msn.com

Paul & Anise Yarbrough: (Noon-6 p.m.) at 899-0981

e-mail: yarburro@msn.com

Pat & Jolyn Murphy: (6 p.m.-12 Midnight) at 892-

4931

e-mail: jpmurphrc@msn.com

The following is a list of hours where we need extra help in the adoration chapel. These hours are occupied by one person at present, but we want to secure them with two. Also, if you visit the chapel, PLEASE sign in. If you don't and the sign in sheet shows nothing for a certain hour, we have no choice but to think that Jesus was left alone. Thank you!

Sunday 1, 2, & 3 a.m., 8 p.m.

Monday 4 and 6 p.m.

Tuesday 12 Noon, 1, 3, and 10 p.m.

Thursday 11 p.m.

Saturday 3, 4, & 6, and 8 p.m.

PILGRIM VIRGIN: To have the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima in your home, and to receive Her Blessings in your life, call Gerri Hoover 892-0414

Virgin I: Bob & Gerri Hoover (12-15 to 12-30)

Virgin II: Kathy Giron (12-15-to 12-30)

TABERNACLE FLOWERS: Please contact Betty Larson at 891-3577 or Elaine Jones at 922-9758 to reserve a week for your intentions. The weeks run from Saturday through Friday. The cost for two vases at the Tabernacle is \$50.00. You may share this cost with another person for both your intentions.

Adoration Chapel Candles 12/28/08 to 1/3/09 for Carl Jeske & sisters Celestine Maixner & Wilma Savage by: Frances A. Jeske.

— please call the parish office at 892-1511.

Marriage & Family Life Deacon Hill 8921511 x103
Deacon.Hill@stanm.org

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COUNSELING CENTER offers individual, couple, and family counseling with afternoon and evening appointments. A fee is charged for each hour session. For more info call the



Counseling Center, 417-2467
or Deacon Burns, 892-1511, ext. 113
or for e-mail go to
www.trburnscounselor.mysite.com.

CD Recordings of some Masses now available:
Beginning 16, November the entire 9:00 a.m. Solemn High Mass will be recorded as well as Solemn Feast Day and Holy Day Masses. Available at the parish office. Each CD is \$5.00. Any profit will go to defray the cost of providing free copies to shut-ins, home-bound, prison ministry and as gifts to new parishioners during home visits.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION TESTIMONIES

Posted in our Blessings Received Book Thank-you:

- For healing me.
- For food on the table and shelter.
- For money to pay my bills
- For keeping me safe.
- For a clear MRI

Children's Religious Education
Phone - 892-1497 CRE@stanm.org

Religious Ed Classes **resume on Tues. January 6th.**

Final Parent Meeting for First Confession is either **Friday, January 9th, 7:00p.m.— 8:00 p.m. or Sunday, January 11th, 2:30p.m. -3:30 p.m.** Plain tilmas to decorate will be given out at that time and samples will be available for review. Final testing for First Confession, questions 24-29, is the week of **January 11th.**

Young Adults Catholic Group Deacon Little
890-6574 Deacon.Dave@stanm.org

Meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. We meet each month at my house. We appreciate RSVPs so we know how much food to prepare.

Our next meeting is January 9th. Hope to see you there! For more information, call 890-6574.

Director of Catholic Social Concerns
Deacon.Smith@stanm.org

Culture of Life Corner

The Story of Mary and Joseph at Bethlehem was almost a case of homelessness, and although they were not victims left on the side of a road, as in the other Gospel story found in Luke 10:30-37, the inn-keeper did act like the Samaritan by at least offering a chance to use his stable. We, too, can be true to Christians in our attitude toward those who lack information about their unborn child or have experienced an abortion. "In dealing with women leaving an abortion clinic, it is critical to feel love for them and operate from the premise (as if to set your mind beforehand) that "they know not what they do."

(David Bereit, 40 days for Life)

CARING FOR KIDS

Our new ministry is open to everyone. We provide warmth and comfort for children in need by making blankets. No Experience necessary, just bring yourself to the meetings on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month between 9:30 a.m.—noon in the St. Lucy room. Snacks, refreshments and material to make your blanket will be provided. We supply RR police, Fire Departments, ambulances, Birthright, and NM State police with small stuffed animals and blankets that are in GREAT demand. If you are unable to attend please make blankets at home and drop them off at the parish office at your convenience. We are in need of new yarn, flannel or fleece material and gift cards from craft stores are also welcome. Help us give back to our community! For more information call 999-6132 or Victoria at 261-1488. Next meetings are December 17th and January 7th.

Bereavement Support Group

St. Thomas Aquinas Bereavement Support Group meets Mondays at 5:00 p.m. in the St. Lucy Filippini room, adjacent to the Parish office. For information contact Mary Davidson at 892-9886. If no response within two days, please call back.

BeFrienders provide **pastoral care** to people in difficult and transitional situations, and are trained to provide a listening presence to others. They embody the caring presence of God and of the community and serve as a living reminder of God's love. If you are in need of this caring presence or know of someone in need, please call **Gloria at 891-0388.**



High School and Life Teen Justin Bucalo 896-8097
Justin.Bucalo@stanm.org



AFTER THE 6:00 p.m. MASSES
Next Life Teen is on
21/28 December-Christmas Break

Adult Ministries Jeannette Schlicher
892-1511 x104
AquinasAM@yahoo.com

NEW ACTS COURSE SCHEDULED!

What is ACTS? ACTS is our parish's Adult Catholic Theology School, which offers advanced classes open to all adults who are fairly well-grounded in the basics of Catholic Christianity. (If this does not describe you, watch for our next Alpha Course!) Our first course for 2009 is "The Feasts of Yahweh: A Christian Perspective on Jewish Holy Days," presented by Richard Torretto, M.A. Classes will be held in Fr. D'Arco Hall on **Mondays, 1/5/09-2/23/09, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**, with a supplemental session on the Seder meal scheduled for **Thursday, 2/19/09**.

Why should Catholics bother to learn about Jewish holy days? Since Catholic Christianity is the direct spiritual descendent of first century Judaism, we will better appreciate our own feasts and liturgies if we begin to understand the culture they grew out of.

If you completed Alpha previous to the 2007-2008 year, but have not yet participated in the rest of RCIA, and now wish to, please contact Jeannette, 892-1511, x104, to register. If you participated in the pre- and early catechumenate at another Catholic parish, but now wish to complete the RCIA process here at St. Thomas Aquinas, please contact Jeannette about this, as well.

Thank you, and God bless,
Jeannette

St. Thomas Aquinas School
Sr. Anne Louise Abascal 892-3221
1100 Hood Road www.stthomasaquinaschool.org
Where Faith & Knowledge Meet
Sr. Anne Louise Abascal, Principal 892-3221

OPEN HOUSE

An Open House for families interested in finding out more about St. Thomas Aquinas School will be **Thursday, January 22nd from 10:00-11:00 am.**

We will meet in the school cafeteria for a presentation by our principal. Sister Anne will give a Power Point overview of St. Thomas Aquinas School after which there will be Q & A time. Tours will be conducted following the presentation. St. Thomas Aquinas School is located at 1100 Hood Road SE, Rio Rancho. For more information, please call 892-3221 or visit www.stasnm.org.

Do You Give Gift Cards? Then Try SCRIP.

Get your holiday gift cards and support St. Thomas Aquinas School at the same time. Enclosed in this bulletin is a flyer about the SCRIP program and an order form. It's easy and convenient to use and SCRIP carries gift cards for many businesses. Please consider using SCRIP for all your gift card needs. And thank you for your continued support.

Smith's Donates to St. Thomas Aquinas School Team Up with St. Thomas Aquinas School

There are many ways to support our Catholic school and one way you can help is by shopping at Smith's grocery store. This school year, Smith's will be donating \$1,000,000 to local participating schools. When you enroll in the Smith's Earn & Learn program and use your Fresh Values card each time you shop, St. Thomas Aquinas School benefits. A percentage of sales is donated to STAS. To enroll you'll need your Fresh Values card and an enrollment barcode. You can print out a copy of the enrollment barcode at this web address <https://www.stasnm.org> and click on Support STAS. Or you can call the school office at 892-3221 and request a copy.

Save proof of purchase labels from Campbell Soup products, and Box Tops for Education from General Mills products. Labels and Box Tops can be dropped off at the parish or school offices. For more information about these programs, please contact the school office or visit our website.

Parish members who are interested in supporting STA through financial donations for families who need tuition assistance, please contact our principal, Sr. Anne Louise Abascal, MPF.



Mass Intentions

- Monday December 29th, Fifth Day Octave of Christmas
- 9:00 a.m. Joette & Jerry Haase 35th wedding anniversary by Jane
 † Victor Roybal by Betty Krewer
 † Mrs. Thomas by Geraldine Ryan
- 6:00 p.m. For those who have lost their jobs.
- Tuesday December 30th, Sixth Day Octave of Christmas
- 9:00 a.m. Special Intentions by Cecilia Sandoval
- 6:00 p.m. For the homeless
- Wednesday December 31st, Seventh Day Octave of Christmas
Pope Sylvester I
- 9:00 a.m. Leo & Loraine Ortiz happy 60th wedding anniversary
 by family
- 6:00 p.m. For those who feel desperate.
- Thursday January 1st Octave Day of Christmas
Solemnity of Mary
- 9:00 a.m. † Minerva & John De Francesco by son John P.
- 11:00 a.m. For all world Leaders
- 12:30 p.m. For our Country
- 6:00 p.m. † Agustin Montoya by Brad & Lisa Hayden
- Friday January 2nd First Friday
St. Basil The Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen
- 9:00 a.m. God's blessing for our children, especially for
 Michael I in the seminary by the Niemczak family
 † Souls of Wladek, Jan, Walery, Lambert &
 all souls in purgatory by the Niemczak family
 † Alfred Kohl by Mariam Bob Kohl
- 6:00 p.m. † Emilio Cordova by his wife Cecilia Cordova
 † Vicente L. Armijo by daughter Antonia Armijo
- Saturday January 3rd First Saturday
Most Holy Name of Jesus
- 9:00 a.m. For the living & deceased members
 of Altar & Rosary Society
 † Parents of Mr. & Mrs. Orlowicz
 by Mr. & Mrs. Orlowicz
 Sr. Mary Klersey by Ken Cantwell
- 5:00 p.m. † Rose Giamboi by Mr. & Mrs. Anthony DiBlasi
 † Amy Louise & James Doyle Johnson by their parents
 † Galletano Ochoa by the Cardenas family

Used Car Needed

Father Terry Brennan, who many of you remember as the former assistant at our parish, is in need of a used car for his new assistant, Father Dennis, who is from Africa. Both of these priests are at San Juan Pueblo parish, which does not have many financial resources.

If you have a used car that you could donate, please contact Father Brennan at (505) 852 – 4179. Thank you.



- Sunday January 4th The Epiphany of the Lord
- 7:00 a.m. † Helen Elsbernd by Marie & Joe Pennington
 Lawrence Hebe
- 9:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish
 CDA, STA Court #2306
 Alice Gruessing 90th birthday by Bert & Kathy
- 11:00 a.m. † Helen Malinowski by Anna Stovick
- 12:30 p.m. † Paul Trujillo by Irma Trujillo & family
- 6:00 p.m. For the youth of our parish
- 8:00 a.m. @ SJV For all who volunteer in our Parish
- 11:00 a.m. @ SJV For our military personnel

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL RENTAL

The Knights of Columbus Council 6696 rent their hall located at 1020 Veranda Road in Rio Rancho for a very nominal rental fee. If you are looking for a place to host family gatherings and celebrations, wedding receptions, meetings, or social gatherings, please call David @ 792-0663 for more information. Thank-you

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Caroline Shipp, local intern for the *Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)*, is available to do educational and interactive presentations about poverty in the U.S. for your classroom, youth group, or confirmation group. She has developed a presentation for students in grades 7-12 that will engage youth and help them to think critically & creatively about the problem of poverty. She uses multimedia techniques and innovative teaching to integrate Catholic Social Teaching with real life examples and exercises. Please call or email Caroline if you are interested in getting youth involved in the fight against poverty!

Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Office of Social Justice

justice2@archdiocesasantafe.org

(505) 831-8235

ONGOING WEEKLY MEETINGS (Religious Education Building)

Al-Anon: Thursdays, Noon, rm. 6

Bible Study: Jeannette, 892-1511 x104

Blue Army: Tuesdays, 10 a.m.;

Kathy-898-5591, Joann-899-9647

(Call Kathy or Joann with your prayer petitions.)

Rosary Makers: Fridays, 10 a.m., rm. 6 896-6127

(Father D'Arco Hall)

Charismatic Prayer Meeting: Thursdays, 7 p.m.

(Church)

Prayer for Vocations/Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Wednesdays, after 9 a.m. Mass

St. John Vianney Mission Church

First Mass

December 21, 2008 Dedication has been changed to

January 4, 2009 at 10:00 am

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan, Celebrant

New Mass Schedule

Starting December 28, 2008

Saturday (Sunday Obligation) 4pm

Sunday 8 & 10am

Saturday Confession 3 - 3:45pm

Sunday Religious Education 11:15am

1000 26th Ave N.E., Rio Rancho



Christmas At The Gas Station

The old man sat in his gas station on a cold Christmas Eve. He hadn't been anywhere in years since his wife had passed away. It was just another day to him. He didn't hate Christmas, just couldn't find a reason to celebrate. He was sitting there looking at the snow that had been falling for the last hour and wondering what it was all about when the door opened and a homeless man stepped through. Instead of throwing the man out, Old George as he was known by his customers, told the man to come and sit by the heater and warm up. "Thank you, but I don't mean to intrude," said the stranger. "I see you're busy, I'll just go." "Not without something hot in your belly." George said. He turned and opened a wide mouth Thermos and handed it to the stranger. "It ain't-much, but it's hot and tasty, "Stew ... made it myself. When you're done, there's coffee and it's fresh." Just at that moment he heard the "ding" of the driveway bell. "Excuse me, be right back," George said. There in the driveway was an old '53 Chevy. Steam was rolling out of the front. The driver was panicked. "Mister can you help me!" said the driver, with a deep Spanish accent. "My wife is with child and my car is broken." George opened the hood. It was bad. The block looked cracked from the cold, the car was dead. "You ain't going in this thing," George said as he turned away. "But Mister, please help ..." The door of the office closed behind George as he went inside. He went to [Cont. 2nd column](#)

the office wall and got the keys to his old truck, and went back outside. He walked around the building, opened the garage, started the truck and drove it around to where the couple was waiting. "Here, take my truck," he said. "She ain't the best thing you ever looked at, but she runs real good." George helped put the woman in the truck and watched as it sped off into the night. He turned and walked back inside the office. "Glad I gave 'em the truck, their tires were shot too. That 'ol truck has brand new" George thought he was talking to the stranger, but the man had gone. The Thermos was on the desk with a used coffee cup beside it. "Well, at least he got something in his belly," George thought. George went back outside to see if the old Chevy would start. It cranked slowly, but it started. He pulled it into the garage where the truck had been. He thought he would tinker with it for something to do. Christmas Eve meant no customers. He discovered the block hadn't cracked, it was just the bottom hose on the radiator. "Well, shoot, I can fix this," he said to himself. So he put a new one on. "Those tires ain't gonna get 'em through the winter either." He took the snow treads off of his wife's old Lincoln. They were like new and he wasn't going to drive the car anyway. As he was working, he heard shots being fired. He ran outside and beside a police car an officer lay on the cold ground. Bleeding from the left shoulder, the officer moaned, "Please help me." George helped the officer inside as he remembered the training he had received in the Army as a medic. He knew the wound needed attention. "Pressure to stop the bleeding," he thought. The uniform company had been there that morning and had left clean shop towels. He used those and duct tape to bind the wound. "Hey, they say duct tape can fix anythin'," he said, trying to make the policeman feel at ease. "Something for pain," George thought. All he had was the pills he used for his back. "These ought to work." He put some water in a cup and gave the policeman the pills. "You hang in there, I'm going to get you an ambulance." The phone was dead. "Maybe I can get one of your buddies on that there talk box out in your car." He went out only to find that a bullet had gone into the dashboard destroying the two way radio. He went back in to find the policeman sitting up. "Thanks," said the officer. "You could have left me there. The guy that shot me is still in the area." George sat down beside him, "I would never leave an injured man in the Army and I ain't gonna leave you." George pulled back the bandage to check for bleeding. "Looks worse than what it is. Bullet passed right through 'ya. Good thing it missed the important stuff though. I think with time your gonna be right as rain." George got up and poured a cup of coffee. "How do you take it?" he asked. "None for me," said the officer. "Oh, yer gonna drink this. Best in the city. Too bad I ain't got any donuts." The officer laughed and winced at the same time. The front door of the office flew open. In burst a young man with a gun. "Give me all your cash! Do it now!" the young man yelled. His hand was shaking and George could tell that he had never done anything like this before. "That's the guy that shot me!" exclaimed the officer. "Son, why are you doing this?" asked George, "You need to put the cannon away. Somebody else might get hurt." The young man was confused "Shut up old man, or I'll shoot you, too. Now give me the cash!" The cop was reaching for his gun. "Put that thing away," George said to the cop, "we got one too many in here now." He turned his attention to the young man. "Son, it's Christmas Eve. If you need money, well then, here. It ain't much but it's all I got. Now put that pee shooter away." George pulled \$150 out of his pocket and handed it to the young man, reaching for the barrel of the gun at the [cont. pg 8](#)

Parish Directory

Pastor (Ext. 107).....	Rev. Msgr. Douglas A. Raun
Vicar (Ext. 110).....	Rev. Fr. Scott Mansfield
Vicar (Ext. 116).....	Rev. Fr. Jeffrey Whorton
.....	Rev. Fr. Michael DePalma, in residence
Deacons.....	Rev. Mr. Roger Ayers, James Baca, Tom Burns,Kenneth Hill, David Little, Leroy Sanchez, Frank Smith
Business Manager (Ext. 101).....	Martin Sedillo
Accountant (Ext. 108).....	Ana Martinez
Acct Asst (Ext. 111).....	Jeannie Pinel
Acct Asst (Ext. 109).....	Liz Large
Adult Ministries (Ext. 104).....	Jeannette Case Schlicher
Ayuda Español (Ext. 360).....	Deacon James Baca
Bulletin Editor (Ext. 111).....
Catholic Social Action (Ext. 112)	Deacon Frank Smith
Communications & Development (Ext. 115).....
Funeral Notices.....	Extension 353
Maintenance (Ext. 129).....	Gilbert Garcia & Manuel Fernandez
Marriage & Family Life (Ext. 103).....	Deacon Ken Hill, Director
Associate Director.....	Deacon Frank Smith
Music & Liturgy (Ext. 105).....	Steven Woodbury
Receptionist.....	Maria Harrington
Religious Education (892-1497)	Sr. Alma Blume MPF
Administrative Asst (892-1497).....	Laura Smith
Sacristan.....	Anne McCluskey
Secretary to the Pastor (Ext. 107).....	Kathy Girón
Special Mass Schedule.....	Extension 350
Weather Closures/Cancellations.....	Extension 359
Web Site.....	www.stanm.org
Youth Ministries (896-8097).....	Justin Bucalo
Assistant (896-8097).....	Rita Montano

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Saturday (fulfills Sunday obligation).....	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. (Bilingual) & 6:00 p.m. (Life Teen)
Monday - Saturday	9:00 a.m.
Monday - Friday	6:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration

**24 hours each day in the Adoration Chapel
located on the west side of the Church**

Mission Church St. John Vianney

St. Thomas Aquinas School
1100 Hood Road SE

Mass Times

Sunday

8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday - Friday.....	8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Saturday.....	8:30 a.m., 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Around the Archdiocese

Cont. pg 7 same time. The young man released his grip on the gun, fell to his knees and began to cry. "I'm not very good at this am I? All I wanted was to buy something for my wife and son," he went on. "I've lost my job, my rent is due, my car got repossessed last week .." George handed the gun to the cop. "Son, we all get in a bit of squeeze now and then. The road gets hard sometimes, but we make it through the best we can." He got the young man to his feet, and sat him down on a chair across from the cop. "Sometimes we do stupid things." George handed the young man a cup of coffee. "Bein' stupid is one of the things that makes us human. Com-in' in here with a gun ain't the answer. Now sit there and get warm and we'll sort this thing out." The young man had stopped crying. He looked over to the cop. "Sorry I shot you. It just went off. I'm sorry officer." "Shut up and drink your coffee." the cop said. George could hear the sounds of sirens outside. A police car and an ambulance skidded to a halt. Two cops came through the door, guns drawn. "Chuck! You ok?" one of the cops asked the wound-ed officer. "Not bad for a guy who took a bullet. How did you find me?" "GPS locator in the car. Best thing since sliced bread. Who did this?" the other cop asked as he approached the youngman. Chuck answered him, "I don't know. The guy ran off into the dark. Just dropped his gun and ran." George and the young man both looked puzzled at each other. "That guy work here?" the cop asked. "Yep," George said, "just hired him this morning. Boy lost his job." The paramedics came in and loaded Chuck onto the stretcher. The young man leaned over the wound-ed cop and whispered, "Why?" Chuck just said, "Merry Christmas boy ... and you too, George, and thanks for everything." "Well, looks like you got one doozy of a break there. That ought to solve some of your problems." George went into the back room and came out with a box. He pulled out a ring box. "Here you go, something for the little woman. I don't think Martha would mind. She said it would come in handy some day." The young man looked inside to see the biggest diamond ring he ever saw. "I can't take this," said the young man. "It means something to you." "And now it means something to you," replied George. "I got my memories. That's all I need." George reached into the box again. An airplane, a car and a truck appeared next. They were toys that the oil company had left for him to sell. "Here's something for that little man of yours." The young man began to cry again as he handed back the \$150 that the old man had handed him earlier. "And what are you supposed to buy Christmas dinner with? You keep that too," George said, "Now git home to your family." The young man turn-ed with tears streaming down his face. "I'll be here in the morning for work, if that job offer is still good." "Nope. I'm closed Christmas day," George said. "See ya the day after." George turn-ed around to find that the stranger had returned. "Where'd you come from? I thought you left?" "I have been here. I have always been here," said the stranger. "You say you don't celebrate Christmas. Why?" "Well, after my wife passed away, I just couldn't see what all the bother was. Puttin' up a tree and all seemed a waste of a good pine tree. Bakin' cookies like I used to with Martha just wasn't the same by myself and besides I was gettin' a little chubby." The stranger put his hand on George's shoulder. "But you do celebrate the holiday, George. You gave me food and drink and warmed me when I was cold and hungry. The woman with child will bear a son and he will become a great doctor. The policeman you helped will go on to save 19 people from being killed. The young man who tried to rob you will make you a rich man and not take any for himself. That is the spirit of the season and you keep it as good as any man." George was taken aback by all this stranger had said. "And how do you know all this?" asked the old man. "Trust me, George. I have the inside track on this sort of thing. And when your days are done you will be with Martha again." The stranger moved toward the door. "If you will excuse me, George, I have to go now. I have to go home where there is a big celebration planned." George watched as the old leather jacket and the torn pants that the stranger was wearing turned into a white robe. A golden light began to fill the room. "You see, George ... it's My birthday. Merry Christmas." George fell to his knees and replied, "Happy Birthday, Lord." Justice Oliver Wendell

St. Thomas Aquinas Ministries

Altar & Rosary Society: Saralee Wisner - 792-5516
Altar Servers: Cindy Keaveny - 892-5649
Apostolate Our Lady of Fatima: Gerri - 892-0414
BeFriender: Gloria Hultine - 891-0388
Bereavement: Mary Davidson - 892-9886
Catholic Daughters of America: Mary Chambers - 896-0256
Charismatic Prayer Group: Nila Baker - 892-1511 x361
Counseling Center: 417-2467 or Dn. Tom Burns - 892-1511, ext. 113
Elizabeth Ministry: Rhonda Neel - 899-3817
Eucharistic Adoration: Ben & Gaylene Bitonel - (806) 676-0333
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
Doug & Karen Taylor - 896-7985
FAMILIA: Phil & Cathy Casaus 890-3222
Finance Council: Bill Cortez - 892-6559
Greeters: Eileen Walling 891-1775
Home & Hospital Ministry: Eileen Walling - 891-1775
Catholic Homeschoolers: Andrea Bass - 323-9222
Girl Scouts: Joyce Sypher - 896-1205
Holy Cross Association: John & Penny Marselle - 400-7245
Knights of Columbus #6696: William M. McCarty II - 681-0570
Lectors: Maria Burns—771-2005
Life Teen Liturgical Coordinator: Jeanette Mata - 250-5489
Natural Family Planning: José & Elvira Guillén - 892-5783
Nursery: Aud Walaszek - 792-8716
Parish Social Committee: Debbie Hanco - 379-0561
Pastoral Council: Coleen Maddy - 404-1392
Pre-Cana: Michael & Michelle Beglau 771-0756
Public Affairs Committee: Felicie Truscio - 891-1304
Respect Life: Felicie Truscio 891-1304
Rosary Makers: Jim Tauer - 896-6127 or Jane Ricci - 892-9260

St. Peter's Men's Apostolic Ministry: Jacob Tafoya - 892-2322
Welcoming Team: John & Mecki Kahrs - 890-6534
Young Adult Catholics: Deacon Dave Little - 890-6574

Crisis & Immediate Help

Albuquerque Rape Crisis Center: 266-7711
All Faith's Receiving Home: 271-0329
Catholic Charities: 247-9521
Child Abuse/Neglect: 841-6100 or 1-800-797-3260
Haven House: 896-4869 or 1-800-526-7157
Missing Children's Hotline: 1-800-587-4357
National Runaway Switchboard: 1-800-621-4000
S.A.F.E. House 247-4219
Suicide Crisis Hotline: 247-1121 or 266-7711

Support & Other Groups

AIDS Hotline: 1-800-342-2437
Ala Teen or Al Anon: 262-2177
Alcoholics Anonymous: 266-1900
Birthright Rio Rancho: 891-1430
Blue Star Mother: 792-4552
Boy Scouts: Bob Ortiz - 891-8941
Children, Youth & Families: 841-4482
Concerned for Disabled: 892-6467
Consumer Credit Counseling: 884-6601
Cub Scouts: Carol Donlin 6a@stasnm.org
Gamblers Anonymous: 260-9899
NAMI (Mental Illness): Betty Rivera 867-1087 or Lee Stevens 792-8871
NM Commission for the Blind: 841-8844
Overeaters Anonymous: 896-1359
St. Felix Pantry: 891-8075 - Food & Clothing Support
St. Thomas Aquinas Counseling Center: 417-2467 or 892-1511 ext. 113
Society of St. Vincent de Paul: 892-0526
United Way Information & Referral Help Line: 247-3671