



# The Anastasian

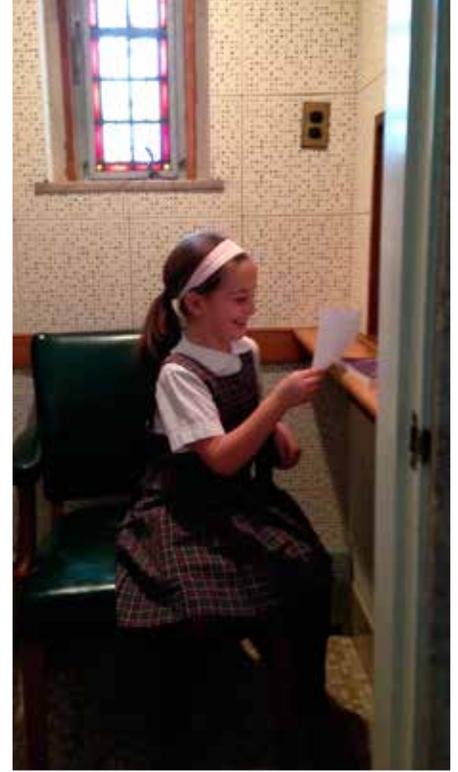
March 2016

**Advent by  
Candlelight**  
Reliving the  
Evening

**CYO**  
Catholic Youth  
Organization

**Sharing  
Our Talents**  
The work of  
Marc DeRita

**Reconciliation**  
The Sacrament  
of Forgiveness





# THE Anastasian

Since 1935

Welcome to The Anastasian. We hope you all enjoy this newsletter. St. Anastasia is a large, vibrant parish with many different groups engaged in wonderful activities that give life to the parish. We hope this newsletter will offer you the chance to learn more about the many ways their friends and neighbors in Christ engage with the parish to deepen their faith and enrich their lives. And you'll see they are having a lot of fun too! Please let us know what you think and how we can improve. Please email us at [promotion@saintannies.org](mailto:promotion@saintannies.org). You can also "like" us on Facebook or follow Lucky on Twitter at [@luckycolagreco](https://twitter.com/luckycolagreco).



## 04 Letter from our Pastor

## 05 Advent by Candlelight

A wonderful way to spend an evening in the middle of the Advent Season

## 06 CYO

The importance of good role models for our youth

## 08 Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Doing more than clothing those in need

## 09 Sharing Our Talents

Giving back of our time and talents and resources

## 10 First Reconciliation 2.17.16

Preparing our children for their first confession

## 11 WHAT IS IT?

Front Cover image : Connor Davies scores on a layup during a CYO basketball game.

### Photo captions:

CYO

Advent by Candlelight

Year of Service

Church Decorated for Christmas





# A Letter from our Pastor Father Colagreco

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your enthusiastic response to the revitalized Anastasian! Your feedback is greatly appreciated by the Pastoral Council Promotion Committee. Its members have been hard at work preparing this edition which I know you will find every bit as informative and enjoyable as the first. Working hand in hand with the Promotion Committee are the members of the Social Media Committee. The Social Media Committee would like to remind everyone of the many ways you can learn more about, and feel more closely connected to, our parish and to one another. As our Mission Statement reminds us, we are working to become “one parish community.” To achieve this, we hope you avail yourself of the many ways to be connected and remain informed. Join us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. Go to Constant Contact and make sure we have your Email address. Check out our always changing Parish Website. I think you’ll be pleasantly surprised to see how many avenues of communication we have available to us. So, sit back and spend the next few minutes reading about your parish, about your neighbors, about your fellow parishioners: about our “one parish community.”

Happy reading!

Fr. Colagreco

[www.saintanastasia.net](http://www.saintanastasia.net)



Stay in the news with parish happenings.

Sign up for Constant Contact email service by visiting the [saintanastasia.net](http://saintanastasia.net) website and clicking on the Constant Contact logo on the homepage.

Temwa K. Wright from Pamoza International with staff and students from St. Anastasia School



## Year of Service

Saint Anastasia School participates in a Year of Service to benefit Pamoza International, a Christian organization working in Malawi, Africa. Events throughout the year such as writing class letters to the children Malawi, participating in various fund drives, and collecting school supplies will help Pamoza International in its mission to share the Gospel and unite people in alleviating poverty and suffering through educational improvements, healthcare, entrepreneurship, and food security.

# ADVENT by Candlelight

"Soft lights, candles, beautiful place settings: each table is unique and a delight to share with others."

by **Sister Mary Barrar, SSJ & Theresa Haggerty**

Advent by Candlelight is an evening of Joy and Peace for women! It is a nourishing time: a time of friendship, sharing, spiritual reflection, prayer, food, coffee, wine, fun! Anyone is welcome to just come as they are!

Many women are stressed by the holiday preparations and this evening gives them a time to just BE and reconnect with what is most important about the Advent Season.

This year our annual event was held on Thursday, December 10. Starting at 4:00 pm the women came bearing table cloths, napkins, place settings and candles. In a short time the room was filled with chatter and transformed into a lovely and welcoming venue for the 150 women who gathered for spiritual renewal and fun! The evening consisted of prayer, refreshments, socializing, and an inspirational talk. Sister Dolores Clerico, SSJ brought the evening to a close with a talk entitled, "How Does Jesus Come To Birth in our Lives?" Sister reminded us of all the ways that Christ is present to us in the ordinary circumstances of our lives. She urged us to think of Advent not so much as a time of waiting for Christ but rather to remember that it is Christ who waits for us - for us to notice the ways that He comes to birth in our lives each day. It was an evening that highlighted the importance of relationships in our lives – relationships with God and with one another. We had a great time! Hope to see you there next year!



Left to right: Joanna Stearns, Pat Brown, Brigid Shank

The Anastasian 5 March 2016



"A key element to the success of St. Anastasia's CYO is the folks that run the program"

Boy's varsity basketball teams pray before a scrimmage in Hagan Arena at St. Joseph's University

### by **Joe Crimmins**

St. Anastasia CYO has been, and continues to be, a vibrant and successful parish organization. As a result, CYO is an integral part of our parish life.

St. Anastasia CYO offers nineteen sports activities for boys and girls during the Fall, Winter and Spring seasons. They include baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross-country, field hockey, flag football, football, lacrosse, soccer, track and volleyball. The activities start as early as 1st grade and continue through high school.

A key element to the success of our CYO is the folks that run the program! Dozens of parishioners work countless hours as coaches, board members, staff and in other volunteer positions. They ensure that the youth of our parish are able to excel at sports while developing and strengthening long-lasting relationships with teammates. St. Anastasia CYO Mission Statement reads as follows: "CYO sports is one component of our parish's comprehensive youth ministry program which enables the partnership of parents, coaches, priests, religious, teachers, and adult leaders to manage and support a sports program that allows youth to grow in their relationship with God and come to better understand themselves and the Catholic faith."

To fulfill this mission statement, our CYO athletes, coaches, board members and staff participate in service projects, fundraising events and other activities. Our practices and games begin with prayer. At times the teams attend Mass together. All children who are members of St. Anastasia Parish are invited to participate in CYO.

In May 2015, the Office of the Pontifical Council for the Laity held a two day international study on the topic “Coaches: Educators of People.” Pope Francis, in addressing the Council, wrote the following:

*“All of us, in life, need educators, mature, wise and balanced people who help us to grow in the family, in our studies, in work and in faith. Educators who encourage us to take the first steps in a new activity without being afraid of the obstacles and challenges to be faced; who spur us to overcome difficult moments; who exhort us to have trust in ourselves and in our teammates; who are beside us both in times of disappointment and of failure, and in those of joy and success. Indeed, the athletic coach too, especially in the Catholic environment of amateur sport, can become for so many kids and young people, very important for the development of a mature, harmonious and complete person.”*

Although the Pope specifically addresses the importance of the role of coaches for our youth, a reader may interpret his words to apply to any person who interacts directly (or indirectly) with our children. In the case of CYO, the latter might include our board members and other CYO staff and volunteers.

Our parish community is blessed with many people who have reflected, prayed, and responded to the call to help make our CYO a successful and integral part of our parish community and, more importantly, our faith life. In order for the CYO program to continue to be an activity that contributes to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual development of our youth, we are in need of more volunteers to help in the ongoing development of our youth. We ask that you give thoughtful consideration to the blessings, gifts and talents bestowed upon you by God to determine if God is calling you to use those talents to work with the youth in our parish or the CYO staff.

We encourage you to visit our website at:

<http://stanniescyo.org/> to learn more about our program.

If you would like to volunteer to help us or just want more information, send an email to:

[questions@stanniescyo.org](mailto:questions@stanniescyo.org)





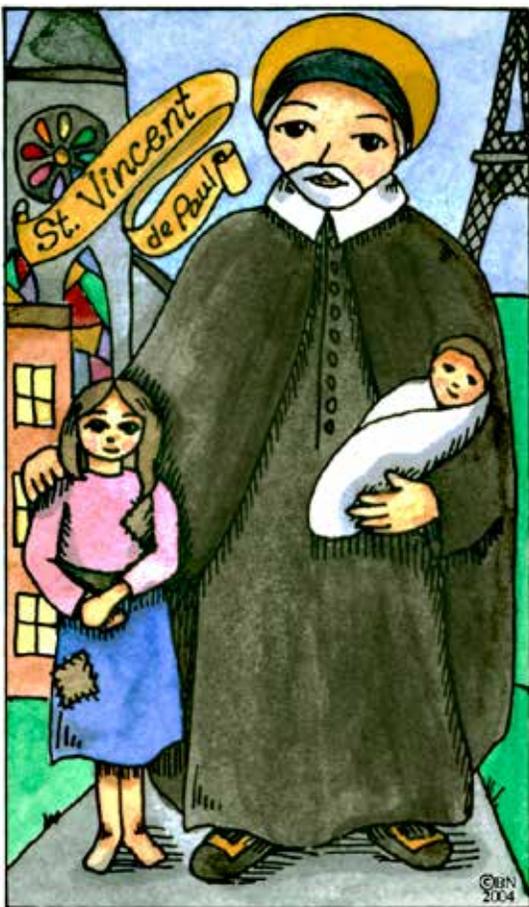
# SOCIETY of ST. VINCENT de PAUL

"...it only begins to describe the contribution made to those in need in our parish community."

by **Jim Murphy**

How many times have you been cleaning out your closets and found that coat that you haven't worn in years. If you're like me, it probably still has the plastic from the last dry cleaning!

The St. Vincent DePaul Society is familiar to many of us. A few times a year, perhaps, we go through our old, gently-worn stuff and decide to donate it to the St. Vincent DePaul clothing drive. As important as this work is, it only begins to describe the contribution made to those in need in our parish community.



The mission of the Society is founded in charity and humility. As stated by an early President-General of the Society Adolpe Baudon in 1877:

".....our object is not only to relieve material misery, a very laudable purpose in itself, but to aspire, especially, through the practice of that most sublime of virtues, "charity", to render ourselves better and more fervent Christians, and to make our poor enter on the same path, if we have the happiness of succeeding."

The trick, as Paul Mulholland, our Chapter president states, is to turn these aspirations into actions - to help those in need. And when we are able to do so we get back a lot more than we give.

But the clothing drive is only one small way that the Society lifts up our friends in need. In fact most of the work of the Society today takes the form of counseling and financial support. Paul and his team provide a number of services such as identifying social service agencies that might help with finding a job or medical support or some help with minor legal issues. In fact, the donations we make to the votive candle donations are used to help our friends and families make ends meet. The members visit with those who need help and to put together a plan to get them back on their feet. Their goal is to return our friends to self-sufficiency. They want to "teach a man to fish". And the returns far outweigh the work involved.

Our responsibility as Catholics to help one another is bound up in the mission of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. The message to feed the hungry and to cloth the naked is the foundation of the Society. This group puts those words into action. But they do so in a quiet, practical way. No fanfare, just help. So if you are inspired to do more to help our friends, the next time you donate that coat ask your "Vincentian" what you can do. There is more information in the Parish Bulletin. And you can reach Paul Mulholland directly at his email address [p.mulholland@verizon.net](mailto:p.mulholland@verizon.net).



# Spotlight: Marc DeRita

by **Dennis Boone**

God given abilities. We all have them, those things we do with excellence. Large or small they are all important parts of who we are and what makes us special, and they are meant to be shared.

“Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others.” Peter 4:10-11

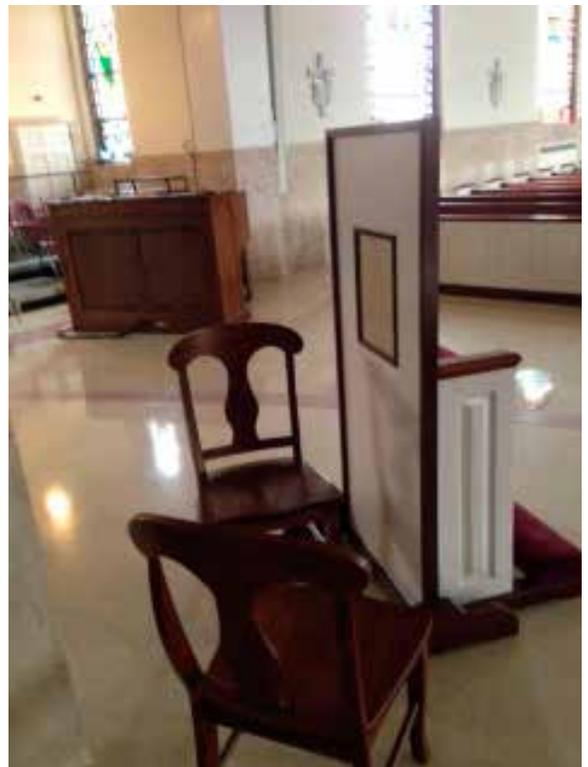
Sharing our talents, time, and resources are a way to thank God for the gifts with which he has blessed us.

It is also important to recognize the people who share their talents with the Church. Marc DeRita built the small tables that hold the bulletins and the beautiful confessional screens for those participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation .

The confessional screens resemble small doors with a ventilated opening in the center. The design is similar to the screens found in many traditional confessionals. While the confessional screens are simple in design, Marc’s exceptional craftsmanship can be found in the little details such as the curved bases, inset white interior panel and beautifully stained wood. Marc’s skill of carpentry is surely a gift from God but also a family tradition. Marc works alongside his father at DeRita Wood Working LLC, a quality custom cabinet and furniture manufacturer. Marc attended St. Anastasia School. He and his family are members of the parish.

There are many people who generously share their time and talents everyday with St. Anastasia Parish. If you know someone who shares their talents with St. Anastasia, contact the promotion committee at [promotion@saintannies.org](mailto:promotion@saintannies.org) and we will consider them for a future spotlight.

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# First Reconciliation

by **Jim Murphy**

Nicholas Schmitt

At a picnic for a Catholic school, the Sisters had stacked a pile of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - God is watching." At the other end of the table was a plate of cookies and a boy was stuffing his pockets with them. When someone asked what he was doing he said that it was ok because God is watching the apples.

Sin can be a complex concept for everyone but it can be especially challenging for children. And the prospect of that first Confession can be a little daunting. To actually admit that my brother didn't hit me first or that it was me who broke the window with the baseball is very hard. And the dark, small confessional, oh man! The teachers and parents who are preparing our children for their First Penance have their work cut out for them. Yet there are so many ways to help adults and children gain a better understanding of this beautiful sacrament.

Our catechists use various teaching tools to help the children begin to appreciate the concepts of grace, reconciliation, forgiveness, and penance. In fact the Sacrament is often referred to as the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Sacrament of Forgiveness.

The main concepts that the teachers want the children to understand are the commandments and what it means to examine one's conscience in preparation for the Sacrament. The challenge is to express the concepts of the commandments in a way that is meaningful to a child of seven or eight years old. One example that they use is that of the fifth commandment, "You shall not kill". Naturally this is obvious to anyone yet, the commandment asks even more. We are asked to avoid becoming angry or to treat others unfairly. The commandment that we shall not bear false witness against our neighbor can be difficult for adults to appreciate as well as children. But when explained by asking, "Did I hurt someone by what I said?" or "Did I lie?" the meaning becomes a little clearer. Some teachers use the Beatitudes to help with the examination of conscience. For example, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." One might ask, "Do I freely share with others?" , "Do I befriend those who are left out or lonely?" , "Am I forgiving or do I hold a grudge?" In this way the children learn the deeper meaning of the words of Jesus.

As the children approach the event the teachers practice with them. They go to the church, go into the confessional, role play face to face confession and practice making the Act of Contrition. All this is done to reduce their fear and to allow the children to focus on the beauty of the Sacrament.

As we think of Reconciliation with Jesus and the Church we are reminded of the Prodigal Son. This story encompasses all aspects of the concept of Reconciliation. A son sins against his father, squanders his inheritance, comes to recognize his sin, confesses his sin to his father, is absolved and is unconditionally received back into his father's love. A parable that even a child can understand.



Vincent Himes

# Church Decorators



Thank you to the Church decorators who made St. Anastasia look festive during the Christmas Season.

Members include Frank Jackson, Phyllis Casey, Fran Gasparro, Marianne Ferguson, Bob Siderio, Sister Mary Barrar, Lindsey Ferguson Ganley, and Naomi Mullarkey



Issue 2 - The Anastasian - 11

# What is it?



## SACRA OLEA

When you look at our altar, the focal point is the gold tabernacle doors. However, a little lower to the right is another gold door. Is this another tabernacle? If not, then what is it?

This is called an "ambry." On the door of the ambry is inscribed "Sacra Olea". Translated from Latin, this means Holy Oils.

The oils that are contained in the ambry are the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of the Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism which are blessed by the Bishop during the Chrism Mass.

These oils are then distributed to every parish in the diocese to be used for the Sacramental celebrations during the coming year. Here, at Saint Anastasia Parish, the Holy Oils blessed by Archbishop Chaput at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul are carried in procession into the church at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening.

by Father Colagrecio and Joe Crimmins



We, the parishioners of Saint Anastasia, are a strong faith based community, grounded in more than a century of Catholic tradition, rooted in worship and service. Compelled by the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are committed to growing in a deeper relationship with God and with one another. We strive to become a more vibrant parish by inspiring an atmosphere of belonging, of welcoming, and by promoting opportunities to share and spread our Catholic Faith, so that we may be more united as one parish community.

