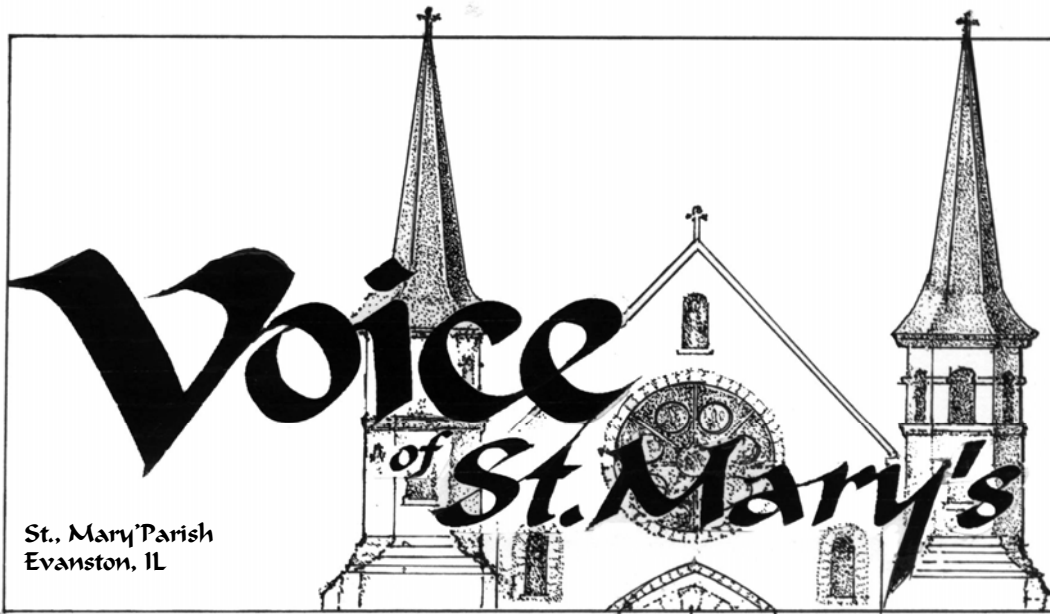


November 2010



## GIVING THANKS



Once again, *Encore!* will sponsor its monumental, super-duper service project on Thanksgiving morning. Parishioners will assemble and deliver about 200 dinners for shut-ins. See page 2 for details.

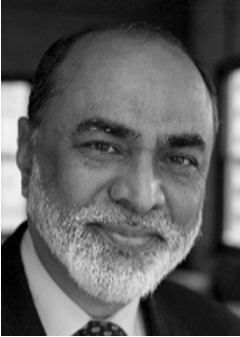


Ministry Fair  
November 13/14  
See Page 2



Thanksgiving Mass  
will be celebrated at  
9:00 A.M.

## Interfaith Thanksgiving



The main speaker at Interfaith Action's Thanksgiving service this year will be Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, chairman of the board of trustees of the Council for the Parliament of the World's Religions and a leader in the Chicago Muslim community. Imam Mujahid works to encourage dialogue among religious traditions in order to foster cooperative work for peace and justice.

The service will be held on Wednesday, November 24, 7:00 P.M., at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Avenue. Please join with others in the Evanston community who will gather to celebrate in song and prayer. All are welcome at this Thanksgiving service!

# Can You Spare Some Time?

We're all busy! Our boss schedules over-time, our children have soccer practice, the cupboard is empty, the laundry is piling up, and on and on. It is safe to say that only retired, older people have time to participate in service. Wrong! The organizer of the Thanksgiving service has a full-time job, so does the treasurer of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the coordinator of our soup kitchen team. Look at your schedule again, and try to participate in one of the parish ministries. A ministry fair will held after all the Masses on November 13-14, and we feature the out-reach ministries below. Check them out! Remember that one commitment, Thanksgiving, requires just 1 1/2 hours *per year*.

**Encore!** If you know this ministry for only the Thanksgiving dinner mentioned on page 1, you should know that they also organize social events at neighborhood nursing and retirement homes.

Those who wish to help on Thanksgiving Day should begin to gather in the parish center basement after the 9:00 Mass. Volunteers will assemble the dinners and deliver them to assigned homes. We expect to be completely done by 11:30. Deacon Dennis is the coordinator.

**St. Vincent de Paul.** The members of this ministry evaluate requests for emergency assistance made to them for food, utilities, rent, or other bills. After visiting the home, money, food vouchers, or referrals to other agencies are given. At Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter, special gifts are given to those in need. The society welcomes volunteers, even if their time is limited. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 P.M. Mickie Haag is the coordinator.

**Ministers of Care.** Parishioner who wish to bring the Eucharist to those too ill or disabled to attend Mass may contact Fr. Greg for training.

**Peace & Justice Committee.** P & J works to promote harmony and social awareness on contemporary issues within our community and throughout the world. They encourage responsible and active compassion, compassion that deserves the name solidarity. They sponsor a Haitian weekend and a Martin Luther King celebration. Meetings are at 10:30 A.M., on the first Sunday of each month. John Ferrar is the chairman.

**Warming Center.** St. Mary's opens the church doors on Wednesdays, from 1:00

to 4:00, from November through March, to those who need shelter from the cold. Under the supervision of our parish volunteers, guests may choose to talk, read, or just nap. Meals are not served, but donations of microwave popcorn, coffee, tea, soda, and paper goods are welcome. The coordinator is Harriet Sowinski.

**Respect Life.** Education is the primary hallmark of this ministry as it seeks to promulgate the important position papers coming from the Vatican and the Archdiocese on Respect Life issues. Our ministry also supports groups that give assistance to young women who make difficult pro-life decisions. Jane and Don Colleton are our Respect Life coordinators.

**St. Thomas of Canterbury.** Our twin parish in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago relies on the financial assistance provided by St. Mary's parishioners. St. Thomas Church and School serve people who are new to the United States, often do not speak English, and are not prepared for life in a cold climate. The church is able to provide food, clothing, and school supplies with the help of St. Mary's and other sharing parishes.

**Friends of the Soup Kitchen.** This new/old ministry has put together a dedicated group of volunteers to serve at the Interfaith Action Soup Kitchen at First United Methodist Church. At designated times during the year, the members shop, cook, and serve the 80-130 people who come to a Thursday evening meal. Cash donations are welcomed, as is food. Servers and cooks are also needed. Bulletin announcements will inform parishioners of upcoming soup kitchen dates. Jay Larmee is the coordinator.

## Fr. Greg Sends Installation Day Greetings



*Dear People of God,*

“Life is what happened while I was making other plans.” In a quiet moment some years ago, I discovered this wonderful insight, which clearly reveals God’s presence in mysterious ways, especially if we are willing to surrender and trust in God always working in our lives. Life is truly a mystery to be lived and not a problem to be solved. Times of change in our lives can be scary and exciting, but they are always grace-filled opportunities for growth in the Lord.

So many people have influenced my life through the years that it would be impossible to single out every individual. But my family, and my mother in particular, deserve a special mention, for they have been a source of love and strength over the years. They have shaped the faith which brings me to this joyous day. Words also cannot adequately express my thanks and gratitude to Fr. Mike Solazzo, the staff, school faculty, and our entire wonderful faith community at St Mary Parish for welcoming me with open arms. I have been overwhelmed by your love, affirmation, trust, and support. I also thank the marvelous people of my previous assignment, St. Mary of the Woods, and all my friends over the years.

Shortly before he died, Cardinal Bernardin left us his reflection on priesthood in his book, The Gift of Peace:

*People look to priests to be authentic witnesses to God’s active role in the world, to His love. People want us to be with them in the joys and sorrows of their lives...For however many years I am given, I give myself to you. I offer you my service and leadership, my energies, my gifts, my mind, my heart, my strength, and yes, my limitations. I offer you myself in faith, hope, and love.*

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God has truly blessed me through all of you. I, too, offer myself in faith, hope, and love. I am both enthused and exhilarated that we will together serve the Lord by serving and loving all people, rich and poor alike, in the years ahead. Let us pray for one another as begin a new chapter in our journey together.

*With love, gratitude, and thanksgiving,  
—Father Greg Sakowicz  
September 26, 2010*



### Remembrance

Each November, we take the time to remember those who have gone before us. For some, this loss has been recent; for many, it has been several years. We never forget our loved ones, nor should we. This year our annual Mass of Remembrance will take place **Saturday, November 6, at the 5:00 p.m. Mass**, a change from years past which will allow more people to attend. We especially encourage those who have experienced the loss of someone special during these past twelve months to attend and be supported in love and prayer by our faith community.

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## Fr. Greg Becomes Ninth Pastor



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