



St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church

4 Union City Rd. - Prospect, CT 06712 - 203-758-4056

Fall-Winter Oct.-Dec., 2011

If the thoughts that come to you fill you with peace, joy, hope, or a desire to be more like Jesus, you can be sure that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you.



On page 3 & 4 of this newsletter you will find a blog written by a caring young lady who has decided to devote her time to work at the Honduran Mission. Her name is Cassandra . . . she is the daughter of our very own Mark and Lisa White.

News from our Parish Faith Formation Director Joe Carrah . . .

Renewing Your Mind

Take advantage of the new CD series by Lighthouse Catholic Media available to all parishioners. Stop by the CD kiosk in the front vestibule of the Church and choose a CD by some of the most influential Catholic thinkers of our time to deepen your spirituality and increase your knowledge of our rich Catholic faith.

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### **New Great Adventure Scripture Seminar Planned**

Building on our well received Great Adventure Bible Timeline, a new seminar is being planned for early 2012 focusing on Acts of the Apostles. Look for more information to follow, or contact the Faith Formation office for more details.

Parish Faith Formation supervises and coordinates all faith formation activities and programs designed to build up the faith life of the whole community and acts as a resource for parishioners in the development of a healthy, mature spiritual life.

Joe Carrah, Dir. of Faith Formation can be reached by email at [faithformation@stanthonychurch.comcastbiz.net](mailto:faithformation@stanthonychurch.comcastbiz.net) or at the Parish Center 203-758-4848.

## **News from the Pumpkin Patch . . .**

Our contest winners are:

*Apple Pie baking contest . . .*  
Millie Santoro

*Pumpkin Seed art contest . . .*  
1st place - Sophia Vescera  
2nd place - Lily Vescera

This is your last chance to buy pumpkins. We are also selling hay, cornstalks and mums. The patch closes at 6:00 pm on Halloween, Oct 31st.

Patch breakdown will be on Saturday, November 5th at 1:00 pm. We could use some volunteers to help with heavy tasks: moving hay, pallets, pumpkins and cement blocks. We also have to dismantle the fence and maze and move everything into storage. A pickup truck would be helpful. Please join us if you can lend a hand. Thank You!

*See you next year!*

## **Pumpkins for Sale**

*St. Anthony Church  
HOPE Ministry  
Pumpkin Patch - Oct. 8-31,2011*

*Thank You for Your Support!*

Our Hope Ministry seeks to assist members of our parish and Prospect community to identify the reasons they are in need and work to change them. It provides a financial source of assistance, while at the same time assuring accountability and responsibility.



## Youth Formation Begins

A new year of Youth Formation is once again under way. As has become tradition, classes began with a prayer service in the church. Classes are offered at various times on five days each week. There are almost four hundred students on our program from grade 1 to grade 10. Obviously, most nights the Parish Center is filled with our children.

Forty two third graders are anticipating the reception of First Reconciliation and Eucharist this year. Parents and students participated in a workshop to introduce the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Later this year they will participate together in a workshop to explore the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Twenty eight high school students have requested Father Mark to recommend them for the Sacrament of Confirmation. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, these students participated in their Mass of Commitment. At this mass, they asked Father to recommend them for Confirmation and publicly committed themselves to the final preparation for the sacrament. After Mass, the students and their sponsors shared a meal then participated in a workshop to begin this year.

Along with the Gospel Weeklies, students in grades four through eight have a special curriculum that explains the changes in the Mass. It breaks open the Mass, explaining the contexts of each segment and prayer.

## Youth Spectacular

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, our eighth grade students attended the 2011 Catholic Youth Spectacular in Bloomfield. The theme was CH\_\_ \_\_ CH: Come as U R: Being, Becoming, Believing. Along with many activities such as Catholic Idol –showcasing their talent: poem, song, dance; Resurrection Stations; Newman Club Quilt Making – create a cloth square that will be sewn together and distributed to the Hebrew Home and St. Mary Home; Reconciliation ; Memorial Rosary; Free2Walk activity – where the students learned about Human Trafficking. Did you know that the Berlin Turnpike is a major “thruway” for trafficking of young people? Our eighth graders do now!

The keynote speakers were APeX Ministries. Gene Monterastelli and Brad Farmer are Christian Vaudeville evangelists. Their presentation was geared to spread the Word of God, build community through laughter and interaction, and provoke people to think about life and spirituality. They used juggling, story-telling, humor, skits and audience participation to share their message.

Joia Farmer provided music throughout the day and at Mass. The day ended with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Mansell. All in all, it was a wonderful, faith filled experience!

## *Knight of Columbus - Chow Chip Raffle Winners:*

1st place: Mark Petruzzi, Prospect  
2nd place: Joseph Testa, Prospect  
3rd place: Maria Alegi, Naugatuck  
4th place: Richard Tuckey, Prospect

## *Thanksgiving assistance. . .*

If you know of a family in need of help this Thanksgiving, please call Evelyn at the parish center 203-758-4056 ext. 16.

## *Ladies Guild Craft Bazaar . . .*

The Ladies Guild Annual Craft Bazaar will be held on Friday, Dec. 2 from 6 pm - 9 pm & Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 am - 3 pm.

## *Need a Helping Hand?*

*Parishioners needing small jobs done:* changing of light bulbs, small carpentry, plumbing, electrical, painting, filter changing; or, sick & elderly transport for groceries, doctor appts.

Please leave a message with Lisa at the Parish Center - (203) 758-4056 and she will have one of the ministry members contact you.

To submit editorial, or any suggestions for our newsletter, please mail to:

St. Anthony Church  
Attn: Newsletter Editorials  
4 Union City Road  
Prospect, CT 06712

## Ruby-throated Hummingbird Migration

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds normally spend the winter in Central America. From March through May they migrate north, some through the eastern two thirds of Texas, some apparently through Cuba and Florida, and some apparently directly across the Gulf of Mexico. Birds reach the southern Gulf coast in late February and early March. Later migrants fly to breeding grounds further north. The farther north they are going the later they travel. Arrival time on the breeding grounds tends to not occur until food plants are blooming. Departure time also corresponds with the end of the blooming season for food plants. Fall migration lasts from late July until late October in the southern states.



September, 2011

For the past seven months I have been working at a Honduran mission at a private Catholic girl's school for 7-11 grades. Up to 70 students are enrolled each year, coming from surrounding villages stricken with poverty. The school and my home are located in a small town called Guaimaca (with a comparable population to Prospect) two hours north of the capital. The Dominican Sisters of the Presentation's mission also includes a health clinic and organic farm which service the local community. As a Stonehill College alum I had the option to continue my education of the whole self, living simply within community with two other volunteers, and committing to a year of service at the mission. Guaimaca has become a very special town for me, transforming my faith and offering a sense of fulfillment.



I could have chosen many different routes after my graduation, but I wanted to reinforce values that I was discovering in college to become part of my everyday life: service, simple living, community, and developing the whole self. I have always felt called to reach out to our neighbors. It's a drive in me that I can't deny, and keeps me going each day. To me, this is the Holy Spirit doing its work through me. In my coming to Guaimaca I have chosen to rid of a lot of unnecessary things in life. (Mostly because it's the nature of living in a developing country that one lives with less *things*.) It has helped me to experience life- in its joys and sorrows- in a more pure form, helping me to take off my blinders, to see the people around me and recognize what's important in the life we're living together.

A simple encounter comes to mind when I think of the beauty of giving. In physical education there always seems to be some sort of injury. One day

Rosa twisted her ankle. She later told me that her brother had recently broken a bone in his foot from playing soccer, explaining the instantaneous



fear that she felt, even though it was a minor sprain. As soon as Rosa fell to the ground, she was surrounded by her classmates, receiving encouragement and comfort. Two of her friends carried her four blocks from the field back to the school so that she wouldn't have to put pressure on her ankle. I was simply present, trying to lighten the mood and comfort her, sharing in her worry. After I carried her upstairs to see the Sister and nurse practitioner, Rosa had calmed down. I remained with her to keep her company and make sure that it wasn't more serious than I thought. Sister went through the normal steps for a sprained ankle along with some medicine, also offering tea and crackers. Rosa, as soon as she opened the crackers, offered them to me. I was so taken aback that even though she was clearly in pain and a bit of shock, was still aware of my presence and showing her gratitude. It was a very small gesture of her love that she has for others and yet it meant a lot to me. I was truly humbled.



In order to be able to understand the suffering and pain that so many in our world experience, we must soften our hearts toward others, open

ourselves to them. In this way we can begin to live our lives for others, to be ever present with love and compassion. Once we recognize the face of God in others, faith and service become indistinguishable. By losing ourselves and handing our lives over to God and his love, service becomes a daily part of life. As Saint Francis of Assisi says, "Always preach the gospel and when necessary, use words". It is in our actions that we express our faith. It wasn't until I immersed myself in the community of faith that I made this (now seemingly obvious) connection. And just as praising the Lord is a daily activity that we must live out (not just within the Church's walls); service must also become a part of our being and not something that we check off our to-do lists. I challenge each member of the parish to reach out



to those around you, to become servants of God, to share in His love, and to live our faith. If you feel called to travel and to experience the challenges and beauties that a developing country and faithful community has to offer, I encourage you to do so. There are numerous opportunities within our Catholic community abroad (as well as other service opportunities in our own country). There have been a number of church groups from the Fall River Diocese that have spent time sharing their gifts with the community in



Guaimaca. The groups have been varied- from high school and college students to mothers accompanying their daughters. Each has come with their own gift: sewing, crafting, medical



services, plumbing, etc. And still many volunteers come just to know the mission and its people. Each one of us is called to serve in some way, whether it is to spend a week in a developing country, to live more simply, or to reach out to our families, workplaces, and neighbors. All of us have gifts that we have to discover, develop, and share with those around us. If you have any questions about the Honduran mission or service abroad, please feel free to email me.

Paz, Cassondra

cassondraywhite@gmail.com  
 Marie Poussepin Center  
 Guaimaca FM, Honduras

*If we do not have peace it is because we forgot that we belong to each other. –Mother Teresa*

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*for Cassondra
 with an abundance
 of blessings*

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