"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Today, 95% of the world’s population ascribe to one of the various 4,200 religions. This word “religion” can also mean faith, belief system or philosophy. Every civilized society holds some form of religion or belief system. The largest religion in the world is Christianity, particularly Roman Catholicism, which makes up approximately 1.2 billion of the world’s 7.7 billion people.

Today, very sadly, there is a growing number of Christians leaving the Faith, particularly among college age. This growing class is being called “nones.” These are people who used to belong to a Christian sect, but for various reasons have left the practice and are “none” practicing. There are about as many reasons for this departure as there are people, but our work is to call them back. If you feel there is a person you know who is thinking about leaving or has left, your work is the model for them by loving them back without judgement. Be the best person you can be to them, since as Jesus himself says “…for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.”

While truth is found in the minds of so many, there is no other person who carries the truth more than Jesus. No one other to look to or for. Yes, Jesus is the one and there is no other.

Happy Advent,

Fr. John
Please support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can continue to bring comfort and peace to our brothers and sisters who are poor and suffering. Thank you, and may the peace of God be with you.

During Advent, SVdP is collecting non-perishable food and toiletries for Catholic Charities and our neighbors at Casa Calderon in the blue bins at each door of the church. Suggested items include: peanut butter; canned tuna, chicken or ham; rice/pasta/dried beans; soup; spaghetti sauce; cereal; cake or cornbread muffin mix; baby formula and diapers; toothpaste; tissues; shampoo; small dish soap; paper towels; and toilet paper; but all donations are welcome.

Consider becoming an active member of SVdP. Society meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at 6pm, Room #6, Parish Center. www.facebook.com/svdptally or svdptally@gmail.com

Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate sanctuary flowers for Christmas, as a memorial to a loved one, or in celebration of someone’s birthday or anniversary, please go to our website or call the office 222-9630. Suggested donation $10.

Christmas Mass Schedule

While FSU is on winter break, there will be only one daily Mass at 7am starting Mon, 12/16 -Fri, 1/6

Tuesday, December 24th
Children’s Mass: 5 pm Vigil
Midnight Mass: 11:30 pm

Wednesday, December 25th
Christmas Day: 10 am

Please continue to keep us in your prayers and for the advancement of our ministry to reach students at FSU, TCC, & FAMU.
Religious Education

Adopt-A-Family
A Big THANK YOU to all who were able to support the Adopt-A-Family through Christmas Connection.

Last class for this semester is December 15. NO R.E. classes Dec. 22, Dec. 29, and Jan 5 for Christmas break. Classes resume on Jan. 12, 2020.

Stewardship of Treasure

December 2019 Dates: 12/01 – 12/08

Two Week Need: $30,000
Two Week Giving: $31,788
Year-to-Date Need: $850,000
Year-to-Date Giving: $839,585

To give online, visit www.cocathedral.com and go to the “Giving” page.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas Collection is important in helping us meet many of our year-end obligations. Please bring the Christmas envelope mailed to your home or find these special envelopes inside the pews. May God bless you & your family this Christmas season!

Committed to Christ, Living in Gratitude

Within the next couple of weeks, you will receive a Summary Report detailing the results of our “Committed to Christ, Living in Gratitude” Program. Several weeks ago we began this program and we are beginning to see signs that our Sunday offertory collections are growing through the generosity of our many parishioners. Thank you so very much to all who have chosen to participate in this very important program. Your generosity shows your willingness as faithful stewards to be a part of the ongoing missions of St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral.

Lighthouse CD of the Week

Dr. Scott Hahn - one of the most eminent Catholic theologians in our country today - reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind - Jesus Christ. Our Lighthouse CD display is located by the parking lot entrance. $3/CD.

Prepare the Way of The King

Dr. Scott Hahn - one of the most eminent Catholic theologians in our country today - reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind - Jesus Christ. Our Lighthouse CD display is located by the parking lot entrance. $3/CD.

Formed

1. Go to: Formed.org
2. Enter code: PXFZ3Q (All Caps, Please!)
3. Create your own account
4. Enjoy!
Trinity Catholic School

Save the date: January 26th from 1:15-3pm.
Trinity Catholic School will be having an Open House. Come to learn more about our exceptional academics and extracurriculars. Visit our Christ-centered classrooms and meet our dedicated teachers.

Trinity Catholic School has been approved for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. Contact Valerie Nadeau, Admissions and Public Relations Specialist at nadeauv@trinityknights.org for a personal tour. See how we foster strong academic, social and emotional development in our students.

St. John Paul II Catholic High School

Save the Date: December 17th
We will be celebrating our alumni. St. JPII Alumni Mass at 10AM in our chapel with reception to follow.

SJPII is holding a Poinsettia Sale, December 1-22 on Sundays from 11-1 PM at the Student Union on campus. 6" Poinsettias are $10 & 10" Poinsettias are $20. Come and visit us and purchase a great holiday gift that supports our school!
Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More  
Meeting of the Pastoral Council  
November 20, 2019


CSU Update: Tyler Currier’s report stated that CSU won first place in the FSU Homecoming Spirit Category. Men’s and women’s retreats will be held this weekend. The Phone-a-thon was a big success, and Tyler thanked anyone who donated money and/or offered prayers. Father John is speaking to CSU tonight about Scripture.

Parish and Family Life: The Christmas Party plans were discussed for the December 14 event. Having the new kitchen renovation completed will be helpful. The Pastoral Council supplies the wine, beer, and desserts. The parish event budget provides the main dish, and parishioners bring side dishes.

The parish picnic was very successful. There were many positive comments from parishioners who attended. Next year, additional food may be needed. The attendance was very good, and the Hospitality Committee gave out little gift bags to some individuals to welcome them.

Education and Faith Formation: Trinity Catholic School: On November 12, TCS held a Mass and reception for Veterans Day. The middle school students met with the veterans and listened to their war stories. The School Spelling Bee was held on Nov. 15, and it was won by Jack Wilder. On Nov. 22, TCS will have a performance of “It’s Big Foot,” a one-act play. A priest greets the students every morning when they arrive at the school.

St. John Paul II CHS: Midterm exams are Dec. 17-20. There is more of an emphasis on college-type curriculum. On December 1, there will be a poinsettia sale following all of the Southwood December Masses to benefit the school. A Fine Arts Showcase will be held on Dec. 11. An Alumni Appreciation Reception will also be held.

Administration: Construction Updates: Dasha reported that 14 security cameras have now been installed. The property can be seen through a phone, tablet, or computer. The cameras also catch events that happen on the street outside the church, including car accidents.

Committed to Christ, Living in Gratitude Program: The parish is using OurSundayVisitor for the current Stewardship Campaign, and Dasha reported about the current number of respondents. Giving has increased 9% over last year in the first group (previous givers), and there was an increase of 54% in another group with 144 respondents. The non-donors group (478) received the mailing once, and only 8 responded. The last group had 27 respondents (new parishioners), with new commitments of $33,000. Dasha will analyze that data to make sure it is accurate. Overall, there were 222 respondents out of 1,000 active parishioners.

Rector’s Comments: Father John reported that an audit team was present this week to monitor the “Safe Environment” policies in the parish. Several church employees were interviewed. The parish is doing very well on the audit team’s criteria. Father John also reported that the security cameras are very helpful, and he will encourage Casa Calderon to install security cameras. He also reported that the Sanctuary Renovation plans are still ongoing, and he is waiting for a response from the company that is working on the plans.

Next meeting: December 14 (Christmas party), and January 15, 2020.
Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 15
8:30am Deborah Sheffield Scarborough by the Vu Family
10:00am Grandpa Ballas by Dayton & Jett Ballas
11:45am † Ruth Demetree by Marietta & Ed Schroeder
6:00pm For the people of Saint Thomas More

Monday, December 16
7:00am † Bolivia Garcia by Elena Cabeza

Tuesday, December 17
7:00am JoAnn Kean by Pattie Malarney

Wednesday, December 18
7:00am Trinh Family by Vu, Thu & Mimi Trinh

Thursday, December 19
7:00am Sheila & Maury Hopkins

Friday, December 20
7:00am Kevin Patrick by a Friend

Saturday, December 21
8:00am Philomian Medehue by Teresa Medehue
5:15pm Kramer Family by Roseanne Wakeman

Clergy & Staff

Bishop Of Pensacola - Tallahasee:
Most Reverend William A. Wack,, CSC
Rector
Rev. John B. Cayer - frjohn@cocathedral.com
Parochial Vicar & Campus Minister
Rev. Tim Holeda - frtim@cocathedral.com
Deacon
Andy Grosmaire - deaconandy@cocathedral.com
Campus Ministry
Br. Parker Jordan - director@fsucatholic.org
Director of Religious Education
Maureen Brown-Muir - maureen@cocathedral.com
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Amanda Jordan - media@cocathedral.com
Front Desk Associate
Nani Nixon - office@cocathedral.com
Facilities
Victor Herrera - maintenance@cocathedral.com

Assistance for Victims of Sexual Abuse

Our Diocese has established Victim Assistance Coordinators to help anyone who has been abused by church personnel. Victims should call Dr. James Gagnon at 877-0205. To report a case, call the 24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline at 800-962-2873.