

# Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES  
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 5

SAINT PATRICK PARISH  
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010



## WHO WAS ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI?



We celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4. Son of Pietro Bernardone, a rich cloth merchant of Assisi, he was born in 1181. Though he had a good education and became part of his father's business, he also had a somewhat misspent youth. He was a street brawler and sometimes soldier. Captured during a conflict between Assisi and Perugia (two mountain cities of Italy), he spent over a year as a prisoner of war. During this time he had a conversion experience, including a message from Christ calling him to leave this worldly life. Upon his release, Francis began taking his faith seriously.

He took the Gospels as the rule of his life and Jesus Christ as his literal example. He dressed in rough clothes, begged for his sustenance, and preached purity and peace. His family disapproved, and his father disinherited him; Francis formally renounced his wealth and inheritance. He visited hospitals, served the sick, preached in the streets, and took all men and women as siblings. He began to attract followers in 1209, and with papal blessing, founded the Franciscans based on a simple statement by Jesus: "Leave all and follow me." In 1212 Clare of Assisi became his spiritual student, which led to the founding of the Poor Clares. He visited and preached to the Saracens (Muslim Arabs who lived in what is now Syria). He composed songs and hymns to God and nature. He lived with animals, worked with his hands, cared for lepers, cleaned churches, and sent food to thieves. In 1221 he resigned direction of the Franciscans.

While in meditation on Mount Alvernia in the Apennines in September 1224, Francis received the stigmata, which periodically bled during the remaining two years of his life. This miracle has a separate memorial on 17 September.

He is known as the patron saint of animals, the environment and one of the two patrons of Italy (with Catherine of Siena). It is customary for some Catholic churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his feast day.

## OLOP GOLF TOURNAMENT

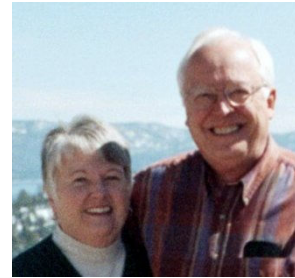
Lee Cumpian

Our Lady of the Pines held its annual golf tournament on August 14, 2010. The golf tournament was held at Mace Meadows Golf course in Pioneer. We had a rousing response from golfers from Pine Grove, Pioneer, Volcano, Lone, Jackson and as far away as Galt, Sacramento and Salinas. We had 81 golfers that enjoyed a great round of golf on a beautiful course. Afterward, a delicious barbecue and dinner was served to 115 people at Haran hall. There were numerous raffle prizes for all to win. All prizes and gifts came from caring vendors, merchants and private donors, to them I say, thank you ever so much.

To the numerous volunteers that made this event a huge success, I applaud you for your hard and endearing work. I wish I could name all the volunteers that worked so hard in achieving this event, You are special.

This community showed its caring face and we should all be proud to be a part of it.

## KNOW YOUR PARISHIONERS



With retirement just around the corner, and their list of possible areas to relocate dwindling, a friend asked **Michael and Joan Nikolai** if they had checked out Pioneer. They hadn't. They did. They moved to Pioneer in 1999.

Who would believe, a Wisconsin native and a Minnesota native, after enjoying San Jose winters without snow, would choose life at the 3,600 ft. elevation in the Sierra Nevadas? Growing up in the Midwest must foster development of a snow gene. They adapted quickly. The technique for shoveling snow is like riding a bicycle, once learned, it is never forgotten.

They met while Michael attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering and Joan was in Marquette University. A blind date was the first step to their marriage in 1966. Michael's IBM employment led them through a series of moves, which in 1975 brought them and their sons Patrick (6) and John (5) to California. Living at the southern edge of San Jose offered city convenience in a semi-country atmosphere. For 25 years it was home. Both their sons are married. Patrick, a Sergeant for the Santa Clara Police, and his wife live in Santa Clara. John is a programmer for Nintendo. He and his wife live in Washington. Mike and Joan have five wonderful grand-children.

"Twiddle your thumbs" days don't appear often on their calendar. The Hospice Thrift Store is a weekly commitment for both. Pre-retirement experience in faith formation naturally led Joan to that ministry. Offering seasonal days of prayer, formation workshops for catechists and serving as the Steward of Faith Formation help to keep her busy. Whether cutting 25 small individual mirrors or building table top bible stands, Michael is her support staff. Creating stained glass pieces and trap shooting are Mike's hobbies. Their shared spirit of wanderlust leads to road trips to explore what is around that next corner.

## SUNSHINE MINISTRY

Joanne Fitzpatrick



I am trying to send out cards for a variety of events in the lives of our fellow parishioners. If you have an important life event coming up, such as a birthday or anniversary (especially one of the "fives"), please contact me. I can be reached at 295-7387, or at [kelly@volcano.net](mailto:kelly@volcano.net).

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## CALSTAR, THE AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

Judy Christopoulos

Last August our daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons were visiting from Virginia. We took a day trip to Pipi Valley. We were having great day. We had a picnic lunch and then we went in the river to have some water fun. In a blink of an eye things changed. I slipped on one of the huge granite rocks at the waters edge, falling directly back and hitting the back of head on the rocks. I briefly lost consciousness. The paramedics were called and they determined that I should be taken immediately to Sutter-Roseville were they have a head trauma unit. Of course I needed to be transported immediately, which meant by helicopter. I had insurance (American Legion ambulance ticket) so my ride to the helicopter landing area was completely paid for, but I wasn't that sure about the air ambulance.

I received a thirty-four thousand dollar bill from CALSTAR, the air ambulance service! First thing was to contact my insurance company who couldn't tell me for sure what portion of that charge would be covered, they said usually the coverage was about 80 percent. The next call I made was to CALSTAR, to find out about payment arrangements.

The CALSTAR service representative was very helpful. She informed about my choices, but more importantly she let me know about the air ambulance ticket they offer. Like the American Legion ticket, their ticket is good for one year which covers the remaining portion of the bill that your insurance does not pay. You can purchase either an individual membership for forty dollars or a family membership for forty-five dollars, a great value to say the least! Of course this service is available only when your doctor advises it is necessary, but it is a service that is essential in this area when time is critical for

survival. CALSTAR can be reached at 1-888-207-5433.

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## OLOP SOCIETY NEWS

Connie Wright

The Our Lady of the Pines Society eased into its 2010-11 year with all the board members staying on for a second term: **Jim Perrine**, President; **Joe Bertao**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; **Ron Burns**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; **Connie Wright**, Secretary; and **Paul Christopoulos**, Treasurer. Thanks to all the officers for "re-upping"!

By the time this article appears, the annual OLOP Golf Tournament and BBQ will have taken place at Mace Meadow and Haran Hall. The monies generated from these events contribute a hefty chunk toward OLOP's operating fund, so thanks to all who participated, and especially to **Lee and Rose Cumpian** who once again chaired the two-part event, with **Paul and Judy Christopoulos** overseeing the kitchen.

New on OLOP's calendar this year is a late-summer picnic, scheduled for Sunday, September 12, following Faith Formation classes, which begin the same day. We're hoping that everyone, including our Faith Formation families, will join in the fun and fellowship at Pioneer Park on Buckhorn Ridge Road. Festivities are planned to begin around 11:30 AM. The Society will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and games; parishioners are asked to bring a side dish to share. Volunteers are desperately needed to make this picnic a success! Contact **Thelma Asbury** at 295-4442.

Another new activity is a fall RV camping trip, scheduled for October 18-21. **Sue Perrine** will be planning this activity when she returns from her own annual RV trip; Sue and husband **Jim** are currently traveling across the continent visiting relatives and making new friends wherever they go.

On a more somber and heartfelt note, we mourn the passing of two of our beloved church members, **David Schulte** and **Deacon Emeritus Bill Thompson**. As so aptly stated in Dave's funeral notice in the *Ledger-Dispatch*, "he was an honest man, straightforward and fair to all people." Dave served as OLOP Society President for two years, 2005-07, always leading with a gentle, humorous touch. We have Dave to thank for conceptualizing a memorial to life, which

resulted in the building of our Memorial to Unborn Babies, next to the grotto. Deacon Bill served as a Permanent Deacon in St. Patrick Parish for over twenty years, making Our Lady of the Pines his regular house of worship. He also served as the spiritual advisor to our local St. Vincent de Paul Society. Although Deacon Bill retired from active service some years ago, he continued to periodically assist Father Tom at Mass and was always seen at Daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. We shall surely miss both of these men but take comfort in knowing that they now watch over and pray for us.

The OLOP Society welcomes all parishioners to participate in not only the events, but also the monthly dinner meetings. The potluck dinners are some of the best around, and the meetings are informative and run an hour or less. All OLOP parishioners are automatic members of the Society, so come and join us! First Wednesday of the month in Haran Hall, 6 PM potluck, 7 PM meeting.

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## OLOP LIBRARY REPORT

Florence Reynolds



The OLOP library, located in the "crying room" at the back of the church, remains available whenever the church is open. There are books and audio materials for all ages.

Items may be checked out for two weeks and renewed. A clipboard is available for indicating what you are borrowing. No penalty for late returns, plus plenty to be gained in spiritual insights.

If you have something to donate, place it on top of the book shelves; it will be stamped and added to the collection. We appreciate all contributions for that was how our library was started and how it continues to grow.

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## LITURGY TIDBITS

Joan Nikolai

### *The Presence of Christ*

Continuing the article from the last issue, on how we show reverence for the presence of Christ when we gather for Mass, I offer the following thoughts in regard to the priest presider and the Holy Eucharist.

True reverence for the priest presider and the Holy Eucharist is a thoughtful act.

It comes from a deep respect, centered in our mind, our heart and our soul. A reverent attitude is conveyed by our body language and through simple gestures.

We show respect for the priest presider in some easily observed ways. We stand when father enters and exits the church. We stand after the opening prayer until father sits. If we choose, we extend our hands as we reply "and also with you." We listen attentively as father reads the Gospel and give full attention to him as he presents his homily. We address him as Father when we greet him after Mass. We need to be mindful that these often repeated signs of respect do not become simply routine. What of the more subtle body language when we are standing, kneeling or sitting? Does our posture show respect for the presider and for the importance of the role we have as full participants in the Eucharistic celebration?

Reverence for the presence of Christ in the Eucharist begins with the simple act of genuflecting. With it we honor Christ's presence in the consecrated bread within the tabernacle. With respect to each person reading this, I invite you to do a "genuflection check" and for parents to do the same with all your children. Sometimes this gesture becomes more of a "dip and slide" than a true genuflection. As age settles in and knees don't bend as easily a simple reverent bow is an acceptable alternative to a genuflection. If age or other physical factors are not a consideration, make this small gesture a true act of reverence with your knee touching the floor. Are we attentive during the Eucharistic prayer? The prayer is our prayer. The pronoun is "we" not "I". As we join the communion procession does, our attitude reflect our awareness that this is the Body of Christ, as individuals and as one, coming to be fed by the Body and Blood of Christ?

We bow before receiving the host and before taking the cup. We answer "Amen." with conviction and promise that we will go out and be the presence of Christ.

"Where two or more are gathered in my name I am with you." In our Eucharistic Liturgy, Christ's promise is fulfilled in a unique way. As Church we are called to respond to Christ's presence in the assembly, in the Word proclaimed, in the priest presider and in the Holy Eucharist with reverence.



## YOUR MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Joe Bertao



By the time you read this a tankless water heater will have been installed in Haran Hall. Thank you go to Brother **Garry Anderson** from YMI who contacted **Tim Blankenheim** from Kamp's who donated the water heater. Installation was provided by **Joe Harder** (electrical), **Dan Placido**, Phil Fondale's brother-in-law **Rick Smith** (licensed plumber) and myself. Our Lady of the Pine's Society is paying for the cost of materials needed for the installation. A special thank you to **Rick Smith** who donated his time.

We are still waiting to hear from the finance committee regarding the sealing and striping of the parking lot. Ongoing maintenance of course continues, such as replacing light bulbs and restriping faded paint on the steps for safety.

## YMI NEWS

Ron Burns

The Grand Council Conference of the YMI, held on June 18-20, was attended by Brothers **Phil Fondale**, **Tim Durkin** and yours truly, with a good time had by all. Incoming Grand Council President **Bob Bartoli** and his staff stated that in an attempt to boost membership and streamline the organization; TECHNOLOGY will be the focus in the coming year. Reports from both the Education and Seminarian Foundations showed that there is money available and requested individual councils to take advantage by submitting applications for the awards. All three propositions voted on by attending delegates did not pass with the required 2/3 majority vote. A Mass, celebrated by Reno **Bishop Calvo**, known as "Brother Randy" to the YMI, included the installation of the incoming Grand Council, led by Brother **Phil Fondale**. The Grand Banquet included the official oath of office of the Grand Council as well as the presentation of the prestigious "Man of the Year" award to our own Brother **Phil Fondale** (Boy, was he surprised!). Next year's Grand Council Conference will be in the Santa Rosa, CA area.

A Mass was held on July 14<sup>th</sup> at OLOP for the members of Council 137 and their wives, followed by a dinner and presentation of the YMI Scholarship Award to

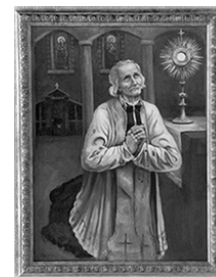
Chris Savoie. Mass was celebrated by Father George Thomas.

Communion Sunday was held on July 25<sup>th</sup> followed by light refreshments and coffee.

On a sad note, Council 137 suffered a great loss with the sudden death of our own Brother **Bill Thompson** on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Brother Bill attended most of our monthly meetings, was always willing to assist with saying Grace before our meals and could always be counted on to help eat any cookies we served for desert. We will all miss his humor and presence. Mass celebrating his life was held at Our Lady of the Pines on August 6<sup>th</sup>. May God rest his saintly soul.

Future activities include an all you can eat pasta dinner at Haran Hall on October 2nd, hosted by Brother **Ted Novelli**. Tickets will be available after August 11<sup>th</sup> and will sell for \$12.00. Tickets can be obtained from any YMI member.

## DAILY PRAYER FOR PRIESTS



*Publisher's note: During our frequent visits to Dearborn, Michigan, Marcia and I attend Mass at the church of St. Albert the Great, where we were married 49 years ago. After each Mass, the*

*following prayer (attributed in part to St. Therese of Lisieux) is recited by the entire congregation. I recommend the prayer to us all. -Ray Waugh*

O Almighty, Eternal God, look upon the Face of Your Son and for love of Him, who is the Eternal High Priest, have pity on Your priests. Remember, O most compassionate God, that they are but weak and frail human beings. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation which is in them by the imposition of the bishop's hands. Keep them close to You, lest the enemy prevail against them, so that they may never do anything in the slightest degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests; for Your unfaithful and tepid priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your tempted priests; for the lonely and desolate priests; for Your

young priests; for Your dying priests; for the souls of Your priests in purgatory.

But above all, I commend to you N. and all the priests dearest to me, the priest who baptized me, the priests who have absolved me from my sins, the priests at whose Masses I have assisted and who have offered me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion, the priests who have taught and instructed me or helped and encouraged me, and the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way.

O Jesus, keep them all close to Your Heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen.

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## HARAN HALL CALENDAR GOES PUBLIC

C. Wright

The activities/events calendar for Haran Hall now appears on the parish website at <http://stpatparish.org/olop/haranhallcalendar.shtml>

Be sure to check this calendar before planning an event or activity in the hall. **Will Pearce** maintains the calendar and can answer your questions about renting the hall and scheduling an event. *All events in Haran Hall must be reserved by Will* – contact him at [wpearce@stpatparish.org](mailto:wpearce@stpatparish.org) or by calling 209-295-5042.

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## NOTE FROM YOUR PUBLISHER

Ray Waugh

Jim Perrine, Editor of the Pine Times, is on vacation with his bride, Sue. To produce this issue, I did his job as well as mine, and it reminds me of how grateful I am to work with Jim. Every issue reflects Jim's hard work and creativity. I miss him.

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## PC PATTEN Are You Playing with Fire?

Connie Wright



If your computing habits include accessing the Internet (and whose doesn't these days?) and you have no antivirus protection, it is only a matter of time before an attack on your PC succeeds in wreaking havoc on your

computer and in your life. Pretty much guaranteed. You can lose files, your private information can be compromised, you can spread the infection to other people in your contacts list, and you'll end up spending more money cleaning up the mess than if you had prevented it in the first place.

You can stop malware (viruses, trojans, worms, spyware, adware, rootkits, etc.) from ever reaching your valuable files by using antivirus protection and keeping that protection up to date. This is not to say that a computer with properly installed antivirus protection and a firewall will not *ever* be infected with malware. But you *can* greatly reduce the likelihood of a successful attack.

First, make sure you install some type of antivirus protection or, even better, an "Internet security" type of program, which offers more protection than a basic antivirus program. There are many capable programs that offer a range of protection. At the very least, make sure you are protected with a good, free, basic antivirus program that you can find at <http://tinyurl.com/4ufthl>. A word of caution: Beware of rogue security software, or *scareware*, that disguises itself as legitimate security software but actually produces undesirable results such as installing viruses or luring you into a fraudulent transaction. A common scareware trap is when you see a pop-up window warning you that you have a virus and that you should download and install or upgrade their program to combat the virus. Chances are this is a bogus alert. Don't fall for it!

If you are prepared to spend a little to protect a lot, I can personally vouch for software by both Norton and McAfee (use one, not both). Both companies offer basic antivirus protection software, costing about \$40 a year. They also have products that offer more protection and other security/backup features, depending on your needs. I've had good luck with both *Norton Internet Security* and *McAfee Internet Security*. These software packages offer more than the basic antivirus protection and are licensed for up to three computers. At about \$70 for either program, that works out to only about 20 cents a day. Consider it cheap insurance for your computer. By the way, the correct pronunciation of that second software I mentioned is MAC-a-fee, not Mick-CAFF-ee.

The key to continual protection is up-to-date antivirus definitions and security updates. By default, Norton and McAfee are set to automatically update themselves regularly. The antivirus software companies do their best to stay even with or ahead of the perpetrators by updating and writing new antivirus definitions, which identify new threats and protect your computer. Norton and McAfee include a subscription period (usually a year), during which time you automatically receive *upgrades* to your software to keep your product running smoothly. This is in addition to the antivirus definitions and security updates. At the end of your subscription, you can simply renew the subscription online. However, sometimes you can find deals where it's almost cheaper to purchase the next *version* of the software, which normally includes a year's subscription. I usually purchase a new software version every two years and renew the subscription on the alternate years. After two years, the software is probably starting to get a bit obsolete, and you run the risk of having software that is no longer supported by the manufacturer.

Keep in mind that more is not necessarily better. Don't use two antivirus programs simultaneously on your computer. They'll hog resources, bogging down your computer's systems and possibly cause a stall or crash.

Finally, if it's too late and you're facing an infected computer with no protection, you may still be able to access the Internet to scan and clean your computer. If you are able to get online, run—don't walk—to either <http://www.bitdefender.com> or <http://housecall.trendmicro.com> for a free online virus scan and clean. If no joy, you can try booting into Safe Mode and running System Restore. Failing all else, you'll probably have to bite the bullet and pay a professional to clean up your computer.

Remember, if you're going to play with fire by not protecting your computer, you'll eventually get burned.

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## NEW PARISHIONERS

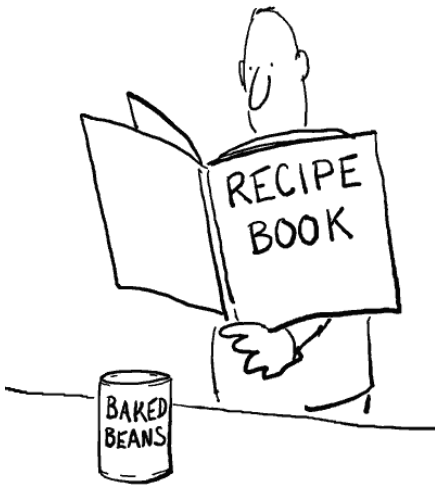
Blanche Rueda

We welcome the following new parishioners to St. Patrick Parish: **Heather Engstrom, Cheryl Niceley, David Radtke** and **David Walker**. New parishioners receive a welcoming letter, a book mark with information on all the churches and some welcoming gifts.

## EATING AT JOAN'S HOUSE

Joan Alimonti

Made this for our last OLOP Society meeting and it received "bravos" --- Do try it!!!



### COUSCOUS SALAD (Serves 6 - 8)

Prepare according to package directions:

1 - 7 ounce box of garlic-flavored couscous

Place in a large bowl and fluff with fork --- let stand 30 minutes to cool

Add:

1 cup dried cranberries  
1 cup dried apricots, chopped (I use a kitchen scissors to cut into small pieces -- easier)  
½ cup green onions thinly sliced  
1 cup feta cheese, crumbled

Mix well with large cooking spoon

Add:

¾ cup red wine vinaigrette

Mix, mix, mix

## A THANK-YOU

We recently had two funerals in two days, the first for **Dave Schulte** and the second for Deacon **Bill Thompson**. The ministries that help with funerals, both in Jackson and at OLOP, did a wonderful job. We are grateful for the work they did.

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO NICK NELSON?



In Fall 2005 I started college at University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. A couple years into the program I decided to tack on a Minor in Engineering Management. I was Treasurer for the club *Students for Environmental Action* for about two and a half years and Secretary for Theta Chi Fraternity for a year and a half. A couple summers ago I toured national parks throughout the U.S with longtime buds Chris Strazzo and Phil Delaney. Last year I passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam to become an Engineer-in-Training, and beginning in

January of this year I started working out of Sacramento for the Bureau of Reclamation as an Engineering Technician. This last weekend I moved back to Stockton to finish acquiring the last few units I need for my Master's degree (Master of Science in Engineering Science).

## PARISHIONER ASSISTANCE

Blanche Rueda

Parishioners in need, who are on our registered list of parishioners, are called and offered help with food, visits, shopping and such. The call is a nice gesture so parishioners know that help is there for them. This past month volunteers have provided some garden care, food, phone calls, help in cleaning the house of the ill person, and caring phone calls from other parishioners. If you know an ill person in the parish that would benefit from receiving a phone call or other assistance please call **Blanche Rueda** at 295-4025.



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Members of our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society beg for money after Mass from time to time. The money collected goes to support the needy of Amador County (which is hardly California's most wealthy). Please bring a bit of extra cash with you on Sunday -- you never know when St. Vincent de Paul volunteers may be begging.

### OLOP Society Board of Directors

President: Jim Perrine

1st VP: Joe Bertao

2nd VP: Ron Burns

Secretary: Connie Wright

Treasurer: Paul Christopoulos

## OLOP MEETINGS

Our Lady Of the Pines Society meets on the first Wednesday of every month. A potluck dinner begins at 6:00pm and the meeting starts at 7:00pm. All parishioners of OLOP are members of the Society. There are no dues required. We welcome your participation and look forward to seeing some new faces at future meetings.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you need an announcement made from the Altar, please contact **Viki Rountt** (296-4130 or [vsrountt@hotmail.com](mailto:vsrountt@hotmail.com)) so it can be included in the announcements on Sundays. If you need an announcement placed in the Church Bulletin, please contact **Geralyn Harder** (296-3889 or [bulletin@stpatparish.org](mailto:bulletin@stpatparish.org)).

If you have a comment, compliment, question or an article for the Pine Times, please contact Ray Waugh (Publisher) at 295-1217 or at [ray\\_waugh@juno.com](mailto:ray_waugh@juno.com). Material submitted via e-mail is very much appreciated. Photos are to be given to Jim Perrine, Director of All Graphic Images and Editor at 295-4753 or at [jmsu@volcano.net](mailto:jmsu@volcano.net).

PARISH WEBSITE

[HTTP://STPATPARISH.ORG](http://stpatparish.org)