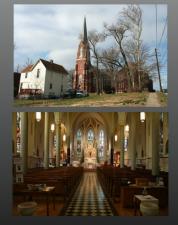
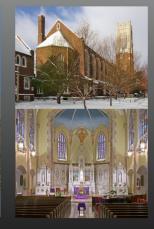
Our Lady of the Holy Cross, St. Augustine, St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist and St. Matthew, the Apostle

Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

OLHC SMA SEMJB









Our Lady of the Holy Cross

St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist St. Augustine St. Matthew, the Apostle

Parish Staff

Parochial Administrator: Father Scott Scheiderer scottscheiderer@archstl.org

Associate Pastor: Father Arthur Cavitt cavitt@lwangacenter.org

Priest in Residence: Father Chris Adinuba

Deacon: Edward Grotpeter **Business Manager: Vivian Fox**

Secretaries & Child Safety Coordinators: Lynda Brand - 1b9853@swbell.net Michele Brown - st.augustine.cc@gmail.com Yvonne Ward - stmatthews@sbcglobal.net

Music Ministers

Judith Jackson -Jujacardinal137@gmail.com Simeon Layne - Simeon.a.layne.jr@gmail.com Michelle Williams - Ministermusic@aol.com

New Parish Transition Team

Kenneth Bell Barb Johnson Stephen Belt Simeon Layne, Jr. Michele Brown Jan Quinn Corliss Cox Desiray Taylor Dionne Flowers Brenda Vanderford Denise Martin Harper Sandra Wilson

Feel free to contact one of the team members with questions and ideas as we transition to a new parish.

Parish Offices

OLHC - 314-381-0323 www.olhcstl.com

SA - 314-385-1934

www.st.augustine.cc@gmail.com

SEMJB - 314-381-9945

SMA - 314-531-6443

www.stmatthews@sbcglobal.net

LIVE STREAM - in browser or You Tube : @olhc-sa-semjb-smasearch



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 AM, St Matthew, the Apostle

Church

Monday: 9:00 AM, St. Louis Catholic Academy Tues., Wed., Thur.: 12:00 PM, St. Augustine Church Saturday: 4:00 PM, St. Matthew, the Apostle Church

RECONCILIATION

One (1) hour before Mass and by Appointment

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Pen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace! Well, we have arrived at the third Sunday of the Advent season, a Sunday known as "Gaudete Sunday."

"Gaudete" is the Latin word for "rejoice." This title is pulled from today's entrance antiphon from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, where he writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice." In the Latin we read "Gaudete in Domino semper..." Hence, we refer to it as "Gaudete Sunday." This is also the Sunday where the priests and deacons wear rose vestments. Rose is symbolic of joy, in particular, the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Now, this appeal of St. Paul is not just a little advice or an encouragement. Surprisingly, it's a command! And not only is he telling his audience at Philippi to rejoice, he is saying to do it always. The good news here is that whenever the Lord gives a command, he also gives us the power to fulfill it! His words are not empty words meant to place unnecessary burdens on us. No! His words have the power to effect what they signify. God never leaves us without. Whatever the circumstances, God promises us He will always supply sufficient grace. It is for us to trust in His word and step out in faith.

So, let us heed this command and rejoice in Him! For, as St. Paul tells us, "...the Lord is near." He is "Emmanuel," "God-with-us" always! My prayers remain for you all. I hope the remainder of your Advent season is joy-filled and blessed.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Fr. Scott Scheiderer Parochial Administrator of OLHC, SA, SEMJB, and SMA

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Our Christmas Season begins next weekend with the Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord, here at St. Matthew, the Apostle at 4:00 p.m. The Season continues with a midnight Mass beginning at 11:30 p.m. with music followed by Mass at midnight.

At 9:00 a.m. Christmas morning we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord again here at St. Matthew, the Apostle.

You can find a calendar of our Christmas Season liturgy at the entrance to church. Please join us for as many as you can. You are always welcome!

Liturgical Ministries **Saturday Vigil, December 16**

4:00 PM

Ushers: Lynn Woolfolk, Bernard Anthony,

Barbara Marrow

Lector: Denise Harper-Martin

Acolyte:

Sunday, December 17

8:00 AM

Ushers: Luci Rucker, Robbie Sanders

Lector: Anjanette Clark Acolyte: Pam Mason

10:00 AM

Ushers: Claire Hay, Brenda Busby

Lector: Myles McCabe

Acolyte: Venus Spain-Walker, Corliss Cox **Advent Candle Attendant:** Corliss Carothers

Announcer: Denise Martin Harper

Saturday Vigil, December 23

4:00 PM

Ushers: Lynn Woolfolk, Bernard Anthony,

Barbara Marrow

Lector: Francis Harris-Brooks

Acolyte:

Sunday, December 24

8:00 AM

Ushers: Luci Rucker, Kim Reid

Lector: Michele Brown **Acolyte:** Pam Mason

10:00 AM

Ushers: Claire Hay Lector: Stephen Byes

Acolyte: Venus Spain-Walker, Corliss Cox **Advent Candle Attendant:** Demetri Taylor

Announcer: Brenda Vanderford

4:00 PM - Christmas Vigil

Ushers: Ken Bell, Barbara Marrow, Lynn Woolfolk

Lector:

Acolyte: Michael Williams

EMHC: If needed, see Fr. Scott before Mass

Monday, December 25

12:00 AM - Midnight (begins at 11:30 pm with music)

Ushers: Ken Bell, Kim Spain, Tonya Wade,

Matthew Stuhlman

Lector: Marie Graham

Acolyte: Venus Spain, Sam Wade, Pam Mason

9:00 AM - The Nativity of the Lord Ushers: Kim Spain, Lynn Woolfolk

Lector: Jane Brown Acolyte: Venus Spain

EMHC: Kim Reid (If needed, see Fr. Scott

before Mass)

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Prayer

Lord, would you restore the joy of our salvation? Help us to be willing to follow you with all that we have.

Amen.

Scripture Readings December 17, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

Reading I

Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

Reading II

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18th - 24th, 2023

Monday: Jeremiah 23: 5-8, Psalm 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19,

Matthew 1: 18-25

Tuesday: Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a, Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,

16-17. Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday: Isaiah 7:10-14, Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6,

Luke 1: 26-38

Thursday: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a,

Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21, Luke 1:39-45

Friday: First Samuel 1:24-28, First Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7,

8abcd, Luke 1:46-56

Saturday: Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24, Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10,

14, Luke 1: 57-66

MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 17 thru DECEMBER 23

Sunday, December 17

8:00 a.m. *People of the Parish*

10:00 a.m. *Jerry Hall*

Monday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Dennis Timme

Tuesday, December 19

12:00 p.m. *Patricia McDerby*

Wednesday, December 20

12:00 p.m. *Francois Steele*

Thursday, December 21

12:00 p.m. Deborah Washington

Saturday, December 23

4:00 p.m. *Arsenia Kincade*

DECEMBER DAILY MASS

Daily Mass on **Tuesday**, Wednesday and Thursday during the month of

December will be held at the

St. Augustine Church site, at 12:00 PM.

1371 Hamilton Ave. St. Louis, MO 63112



December Birthdays & Anniversary

Happy Birthday

Anniversary to all who celebrate this month

HOMEBOUND AND SICK

Remember in your prayers all the Homebound and Sick of our parish:

Judith Banks, Violet Blackmon, William Bonnett, Carrie Brown, Grace Brown, Ruby Carter, Mariah Casey, Roger Casey, Harold Cole, Senola Collier, George Cross, Bernice Culmore, Lily Davis, Rhonda Dorsey, Ethel Franklin, Naomi Gardner, Leodia Gooch, Kenneth Herndon, Gus Hinton, Barbara Ingram, Ricki Kibby, Stanley King, Janie Kirkland, Finley Martin. Elizabeth McFarland, Wendell Scales, Shirley Shelton, Sandra Simmons, Frances Simms, Crystal Small, Doris Smith, Laverna Spinks, Veronica Whalum, Harriett White, Lillian Whitley, Mattie Williams, Eugenia Young



In Loving Memory



Remember all of our departed loved ones.

Arsenia Kincade **Deborah Washington**

In my Father's house are many rooms. *If it were not so, would I have told you that* I will go to prepare a place for you? John 14:2

Offertory December 9th & 10th

Our Lady of the Holy Cross

- \$ 385.00 - General Fund
- \$ 0.00 - Online Giving

St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist

- 2,234.50 General Fund
- \$.00 - Online Giving

St. Augustine

- 1,693.02 General Fund \$
- 253.00 Online Giving

St. Matthew, the Apostle

- 2,190.00 General Fund
- 590.00 Online Giving

Jesus make our hearts like yours



PARISH NEWS

Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into Hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA TODAY, DECEMBER 17 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Stanley and Clayton Rice Family Center**



4145 Kennerly Ave., St. Louis, MO 63113 There are a limited number of tickets available. No tickets will be sold at the door. Donations are \$5.00 per person. Ticket prices include breakfast, entertainment and Christmas stocking. See Desiray Taylor or Keana Nwaneri if interested in attending.

Sponsored by Young Adult Ministry

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL E-COMMERCE SHOP



The Society of St. Vincent DePaul in St. Louis launched its new E-commerce shop. Online sales provide financial support to our area Neighbors In Need (www.ebay.com/str/svdpstl). You can find listings for men's, women's and kid's apparel, specialty sport items, jerseys, and shoes! New items are posted daily.

Purchases can be shipped to anywhere in the continental United States. It's a great way to provide help to those in need!

Check it out!

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE AND HELP ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Running or not. Free towing. Tax deductible. A vehicle donation from you gives hope to those in need. We have an easy process and free pick-up.

To learn more, call or visit us online, 800-322-8284 or www.svdpusacars.com.

FORMATION OF PARISH LADIES' COUNCIL

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Ladies' Council for our parish, please contact Gladys Mansfield, 314-361-0464, or Jane Brown, 314-869-7442. This is a great opportunity to come together, meet other parishioners and serve.

FORMATION OF PARISH MEN'S COUNCIL

ATTENTION—All Men of the Parishes!

If you are interested in forming a Men's Club of the combined parishes, please contact Gerron Houston, (314) 397-3509, or email HoustonGerron@gmail.com. This would be a great opportunity to get to know our parish family, each other and serve our church and community.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Do you know someone that is interested in joining the Catholic Church? Or, someone baptized who is not confirmed or who has never received communion?

Classes have begun. We meet after mass at St. Matthew, the Apostle rectory. It's not too late to join us.

Are you called to liturgical

ministry? If you are interested in serving as a Greeter/Usher, Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy



Communion or Acolyte, paper forms are available in the back of Church OR go to:

https://www.osvhub.com/stmatthew-the-apostlechurch/forms/liturgical-minister-volunteer-contactform to fill out the online form. For questions contact Kim Reid at sacredheart4kim@gmail.com. Training is being offered.

Please Update Your Parishioner Information

We are asking all parishioners to please update your contact information by completing the form in the pew, calling the parish office, visit the website or emailing:

St. Matthews: Yvonne at stmatthews@sbcglobal.net

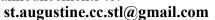
St. Augustine: Michele at st.augustine.cc.stl@gmail.com

St. Elizabeth: Lynda at lb9853@swbell.net

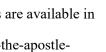
Our Lady of the Holy Cross: Lynda at lb9853@swbell.net

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the month of December please send all bulletin announcements to:



Announcements must be emailed no later than close of business on Tuesdays.



Announcements

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE COMMUNITY



The third candle is the **Shepherd's Candle**, as we remember to rejoice in Christ's birth, like the shepherds on the first Christmas Eve. It is also called Gaudete

Sunday from the Latin Philippians 4:4, 5 "rejoice in the Lord always." The third candle is usually pink or rose-colored. Pink is associated with joy, and it is on the third Sunday of Advent, that we turn from repentance towards the celebration of Christ's imminent birth.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Rejoice! On Gaudete Sunday we remember the joy that is coming soon to the world: Jesus Christ. Where do we find joy in life? If we seek it in anything but Christ, we are missing out because true joy



comes from the knowledge that God loves us and has come to save us from sin and death. As John the Baptist preached, true joy comes by way of repentance. Our desire for holiness and pursuit of genuine freedom from sin and death inspire us to renounce evil and to open a place for Christ to enter our hearts, minds, and souls. When we are open to experiencing the grace of Christ, we can receive mercy, forgiveness, healing, consolation, and peace along with joy.

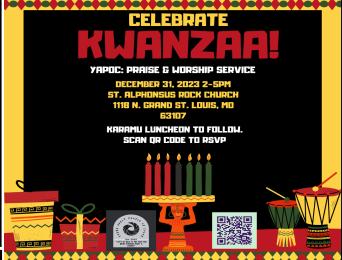
Missionary Discipleship

SAVE THE DATE! Dr. Martin Luther King Commemoration

48th Annual Archdiocesan Celebration on the Holiday Weekend Commemorating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther



King, Jr., Sunday January 14, 2024, at 2:30 PM, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. This is inclusive of Mass and the 17th Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Model of Justice Awards. Mark your calendar!



ARE YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW IN NEED OF RECEIVING ANY SACRAMENT(S)?



If anyone has sacramental needs (Baptism, First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)), please contact the parish office.

† First Reconciliation (Confession)/First Eucharist (Communion):

Any child or youth in the second grade or older who has been baptized: There will be a **mandatory orientation meeting** for parents (only) of children preparing to receive First Holy Communion (Eucharist) this year.

† Confirmation:

Any youth who has been baptized and must be in grades 7th-12th and at least 12 years of age at the time of the administration of the Sacrament. All candidates and their families must attend an information session prior to enrollment.

† All other sacramental needs: Contact the parish office.

Sacramental Preparation: If you or anyone you know is in need of any sacrament, please contact the parish office immediately. It will soon be too late to enroll in many of these sessions this school year.

If you have any questions contact the parish office at 314-531-6443.



New Parish "Name Proposal"



Saint Katharine Drexel Submitted by Lynn Woolfolk

"St. Katharine Drexel founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, who served Black and Indigenous American communities."

"Katharine Mary Drexel was born Catherine Marie Drexel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 26, 1858, to Francis Anthony Drexel and Hannah Langstroth. She had an



older sister, Elizabeth. Her family owned a considerable banking fortune, and her uncle Anthony Joseph Drexel was the founder of Drexel University in Philadelphia. She was a distant cousin of former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis on her father's side.

Langstroth died five weeks after Katharine's birth and Anthony Joseph and his wife Ellen cared for Katharine and Elizabeth for the next two years. Her father married Emma Bouvier in 1860, brought his older children home, and had a third daughter, Louise, in 1863.

The girls grew up in a wealthy and religious household with charitable principles.

Katharine was awakened to the plight of indigenous American people during a family trip to the Western United States and was inspired.

In these early years, she traveled extensively, both in her home country and abroad. In 1886, during an audience with Pope Leo XIII, she was urged to become a missionary and to realize her desire to assist the Indian and African American population in the country. In 1889, Katharine Drexel fulfilled that wish by entering a convent of the Sisters of Mercy and in February 1891, she founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. Drexel decided to establish the congregation to address the needs of Native Americans and African Americans in the southern and western United States, as well as the poor black communities. She served as first Superior General of the congregation and held that position until 1937, when illness made it necessary that she retire from active administration of her flock.

An appeal by the late Archbishop James H. Blenk brought Mother Katharine to New Orleans in 1915 to open the way for the education of the black youth in the city. This led to the purchase of the old Southern University site, and establishing Xavier High School, later known as Xavier Preparatory School. She financed more than 60 missions and schools around the United States, as well as founding Xavier University of Louisiana – the only historically Black and Catholic university in the United States. She financed Mother Loyola, the blood sister and successor of foundress Lucy Eaton Smith of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine de' Ricci, to care for Afro-Cuban children in Havana, Cuba during and after the Spanish–American War. The children had been orphaned by the war, and no other church or government entity was willing to support them because they were children of color. In 1942, the Republic of Haiti acknowledged her with the Honneur et Merite Medal and the following year, she was recipient of the Sienna Medal for the most distinctive contribution to Catholic life in the United States.

Other honors included the DeSmet Medal from Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash., 1938; the Catholic Action Medal from the Knights of Columbus, Santo Domingo Council, Philadelphia, 1938; and an award and scroll by the Catholic Committee of the South, 1942.

Drexel is one of only a few American saints and the second American-born saint (Elizabeth Ann Seton was a natural-born US citizen, born in New York City in 1774 and canonized in 1975).

The Vatican cited a fourfold legacy of Drexel:

- A love of the Eucharist and perspective on the unity of all peoples;
- courage and initiative in addressing social inequality among minorities;
- her efforts to achieve quality education for all;
- ◆ and selfless service, including the donation of her inheritance, for the victims of injustice. (She is known as the patron saint of racial justice and of philanthropists.)

Her feast day is observed on March 3, the anniversary of her death. She was buried in Cornwells Heights, Bensalem Township, Pennsylvania.

Drexel was beatified by Pope John Paul II on November 20, 1988, when her first miracle through prayer—healing the severe ear infection of teenage Robert Gutherman in 1974—was accepted. She was canonized on October 1, 2000, when her 1994 miracle of reversing congenital deafness in 2-year old Amy Wall was recognized."

Source: Wikipedia

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

St. Vincent DePaul Society	8115 Church Rd.	314-381-0323
	1371 Hamilton Ave.	314-289-6101 ext 1134
	2715 North Sarah Street	314-289-6101 ext 1169
	4746 Carter Ave.	314-932-7222
Baden Community Vegetable Garden	8115 Church Rd.	314-825-1603
Father Bob's Outreach	1371 Hamilton Ave.	314-385-1934
St. Augustine Wellston Center	1705 Kenlien Ave.	314-382-7158
Northside Youth & Senior Service Center	4120 Maffitt Ave.	314-531-4161 or
		314-531-1937
		-1.1 1 - 100
Northside Community Housing	4067 Lincoln Ave.	314-534-5400
Child & Family Empowerment Center, Inc.	4145 Kennerly Ave.	314-449-1333
	10 10 7 7 9	
Unfailing Love Christian Church-Food Pantry	4068 Maffitt Ave.	314-371-1057
St. Louis Catholic Academy	4720 Carter Ave.	314-389-0401
·		
St. Charles Lwanga Center	4746 Carter Ave.	314-231-2860 ext 24





Habitat for Neighborhood Business

We support existing and aspiring entrepreneurs and others who share our mission to increase commercial investment in under-served neighborhoods.

Contact Gladys Smith, Program Administrator, at 314-977-3625.

"Strengthening Neighborhood Businesses"

IN REMEMBRANCE
Patrick W. Rush
Patricia Rush
Barrington Gates
Patricia Crawford
Katherine Brewster
Lena Brewster Kennon
Inez Brewster McClinton

IN LOVING MEMORY

Mabel Hall Gregory Hall
Leo Hall Jarvis Hall
Gail Hall Mattie Hall
Susie Brewster Velma Brewster

In Memory of
Clifton and Erna Martin
Alladin & Rezia Martin
William & Augusta Theriot
& All Family Members
Who Have Passed

In Loving Memory Leroy & Maudesta Gougisha Jerone "Ronnie" Gougisha **Janet Gougisha** Joshua Johnson



In Loving Memory of James & Margaret Bland Theresa Frisch-Gordon

> **Beloved Father & Mother** and Grandmother

In Memory of Mrs. Angela Ákunmo (née Ezepue)

May her soul Rest in Peace. Amen

In Loving Memory Stanley & Clayton Rice

Ernest &Lucinda Rice John & Mary Briggs Clayton & Althlee Williams Harrison York Smith, II



Be a member of The Holy Name Society

Try to attend Daily Mass

In Beloved Memory of Carl Jacob Westfall Carl Lewis Westfall Sophia Alexander Westfall Ann A. Parker William "Beanie" Westfall

In Memory of **Beaulah & Walter McPherson** Mildred & Barney Simms **And Other Family Members**

Memorialize a loved one In this space

In Loving Memory of Choi S. Handley

(wife, mother, daughter, sister)

In Loving Memory

of

Lindell Collins Sr. **Ida Collins** Lindell Collins Jr. Ernest Collins Albert Mason Jr. William Collins Sr. **Doris Mason**

In Loving Memory of

Jannia Fields Vivian Kirksev Henry Frank Clay, Jr. **Henrietta Clav**

Is Stephens Ministry for you?

Contact Teresa Scurlock 314.397.2748 Margaret Ann McCabe 314.609-9285



In Memory of Helena C. Anthony Shawn C. Anthony Lloyd Tilghman Francis Tilghman Theresa Tilghman John O. Tilghman Lloyd (chick) Tilghman

In Loving Memory of **Burton & Ruby Woods,** Paul & Victoria Powell, George Powell, Willie Paul Powell, Charles "Bobby" Powell, Elenora Ross, Mattie Toney, Elijah "Joe" Turnage, Equellia Woods, Iola Abney

Memorialize a loved one In this space

In Memoriam

Oliver McCullum Gretchen McCullum Levester McCullum Ruby Williams Willa Mae McFarley Virginia Ann Saunders Raymond Prisby, Sr. Mary Prisby Holliday Gladys Prisby-Ross Raymond Prisby, Jr. Russell E. Prisby Vivian Prisby

In loving memory of Thad Hollie, Jr., Esq.

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always abiding in the word of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58

IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Members of St. Vincent de Paul Society @ St. Matthew

Liz Bell **Beatrice Blackshear** Flora Hailey **Henry Brown**

Dorothy Cain Gwendolyn Harris

Leo Glaze **Cloteal Harris**

Mary Hoskins Lillie Johnson **Ernestine Jackson**

Al & Felecia Leake

Ruth Mitchell Jean Smart

Knights of Peter Claver



Father Zimmerman Council 150 Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary St. Matthew Court 150

SPREADING EVANGELIZATION SINCE 1909

For information contact: Isom Williams, Jr. (Knights) Patricia Hughes (Ladies)

In Memory of Earl Franklin Johnson, Sr. Earl Franklin Johnson, Jr. **Marian Fleming** John E. Ford. Jr. Ella & Willie Butler **Samuel Sheppard** Marquez Oliver



Be a member of St. Ann Sodality

Attend Mass regularly Meetings every 3rd Sunday

Please support the businesses and pray for the people that sponsor these ads. They make our bulletins possible!