



SPIRIT OF ST. ISAAC'S

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Preschool Events p. 2

Passion Play p. 7

Mass Schedule p. 8

Special points of interest:

- From the Pastor p. 3
- Life Line Screening p. 4
- Events for Women p. 5

Read the Sunday Bulletin on the Web!

St. Isaac's Website:

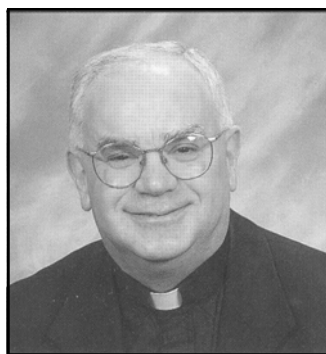
www.stisaac.org

Reverend Steven J. Harris Installed as New Pastor of St. Isaac Jogues

At the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, February 21, 2009, **Reverend Steven J. Harris, JCD**, was installed as the fourth pastor of St. Isaac Jogues Parish. The principal celebrant was the **Most Reverend Robert P. Maginnis**, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Concelebrants, in addition to Father Harris, included **Reverend Monsignor Joseph T. Marino**, **Reverend Monsignor John A. Sharkey**, and **Reverend Paschal U. Onunwa**.

Father Harris replaces **Monsignor Joseph C. Cunningham** who retired from the active ministry in January.

Father Steven Harris was born in Chester, PA on October 13, 1954, the son of Leroy and Gloria Harris. He attended St. Anthony of Padua Parochial School in



Rev. Steven J. Harris

Chester and Archmere Academy in Claymont, Delaware. Upon graduation from high school, Fr. Harris entered the seminary at St. Charles Borromeo in Wynnewood, PA and served as a deacon at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Philadelphia.

Following ordination as a priest on May 17, 1980, Father Harris was assigned as assistant pastor at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in South Philadelphia. During subse-

quent years, he acquired a Master of Religious Studies degree at St. Charles Seminary, he completed graduate studies at Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and acquired a Doctorate in Canon Law, J.C.D. In addition, Fr. Harris has served on the faculty of Cardinal O'Hara High School, Springfield, PA, as a judge on the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, professor of canon law at St. Charles Seminary, and he has served as Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Most recently, he was pastor of St. Therese of The Child Jesus Parish in Mt. Airy, and pastor of St. Louis Parish in Yeadon.

We at St. Isaac's are very fortunate to have a man of such caliber and education as our pastor and we warmly welcome him!

Job Hunting ??

Why not join **St. Isaac's Transition Support Group**? They meet the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. here in Classroom 7/8. They discuss all aspects of finding meaningful employment from resume writing to networking, interviewing tips, and negotiating. For more information, E-mail timwbyrne@comcast.net.



Coming This Fall

Choirs, ensembles, soloists, Instrumentalists, etc.

Come join us

Watch for more information in the Sunday Bulletins

Spirit of St. Isaac's



*A parish newsletter
published semi-annually*

50 West Walker Road
Wayne, PA 19087

Telephone: 610-687-3366



Website: www.stisaac.org

Pastor:

Reverend Steven J. Harris

Parochial Vicar:

Reverend Paschal U.
Onunwa

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From the Pastor...



St. Isaac's Parish is responding to the economic uncertainties facing so many people right now. Our own parishioners are not immune from financial anxieties. The Church's concern is primarily sacramental, that is, to do our best to support struggling marriages and families in distress as well as individuals.

Our response to rising unemployment and financial setbacks is twofold. First, we NOW have a "Rainy Day" fund to assist our parishioners through tough times. The fund is endowed by contributions from our parishioners and by various benefits to increase the fund. The kindness of our parishioners is most encouraging;

your donations are doing a lot of good right here at home. Second, we now have a "People in Transition" group that meets bi-monthly at St. Isaac's. This is a support group to help people cope with the emotional impact of economic setbacks. The group helps people to fashion job resumes and to network their skills.

By responding in these ways, St. Isaac's Parish is modeling the faith, hope and love of the earliest Christian communities who witnessed to our Lord's Resurrection by providing for the daily needs of their people. May our Risen Savior continue to prosper our "Rainy Day" fund and our "People in Transition" group.

Fr. Harris

Preschool Events



Pre-K classes from St. Isaac's Preschool went to church on Ash Wednesday, many with their mothers and siblings. Father Harris talked to the children about the meaning of Lent and then distributed ashes to the children and their families.



Several Preschool families attended the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey "Zing Zang Zoom Circus" on Sunday, May 17. Tickets were generously donated to any families, and staff, who wanted to attend. A great time was had by all!

St. Isaac's Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

Jesus is inviting you to spend a special hour with Him!

"The Eucharist itself powerfully illuminates human history and the whole cosmos." (Sacramentum Caritatis)

Your willingness to support our adoration chapel will draw countless graces on yourself and on the world. Jesus pours out His mercy because of adorers willing to keep vigil with Him – as stated by many saints, such as, St. Faustina. In order to have a constant vigil of prayer, we need adorers, preferably two, to sign up for each hour, The following hours do not have committed adorers:

(Continued on page 3)

St. Isaac Jogues Religious Education

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of Eucharist – Second Grade

This was an extraordinary Spring for St. Isaac Jogues thirty-two second graders. They prepared for and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, February 21st, bringing them God's forgiveness, mercy, and everlasting love.

On Sunday, April 26th, a First Communion Retreat was held for the students followed by a Prayer Service and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament led by Father Steven J. Harris. Parents and families were invited to the Prayer Service, a very special event.

A program for parents of our communicants was held on Saturday, May 2nd. It included "A Time of Prayer and Reflection for Parents" and "What Catholics Believe About the Mass" with film and discussion.

The students received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 3rd, during the 12 p.m. Mass. Our Pastor, Father Steven J. Harris, was the celebrant. It was a new and beautiful beginning for our students' lives with Jesus, and the first of many journeys to our Lord's Banquet.

Confirmation 2009

In February, 48 students in the 6th and 7th grades at St. Isaac Jogues CCD program began preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be held in the Fall of 2009. The class includes students from parochial, private, and public schools.

Adult Education 2008-2009

Programs conducted:

Discussion groups of the First and Second Letters of St. Paul to the Corinthians and The Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Pre-Jordan classes conducted monthly.

Parents Time of Reflection Program for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Way of Christ Program (RCIA) – Two persons participated. One was baptized at the Easter Vigil and the other is to be confirmed at the Cathedral on Pentecost.

Religious Education Closing Ceremony – Sunday, May 17, 2009

Mass was celebrated at 8 a.m. followed by a procession into the parish garden and May Crowning of our Blessed Mother. Afterwards, an Award Ceremony took place with students and families returning to the Parish Hall.

Adoration Chapel...

(Continued from page 2)

Sundays	10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays	4:00 to 5:00 a.m. 6:00 to 7:00 a.m.
Thursdays	5:00 to 6:00 a.m.
Saturdays	Midnight to 1:00 a.m.

Substitutes are also needed, especially for the summer season. A weekly commitment is preferable; however, even once a month will help. The hours are usually posted in the chapel foyer. To respond, just go for adoration at one of the hours which fits your schedule, sign or initial the register, and contact one of the coordinators to sign up:

<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Responsible for-</u>
Jeanine Baker	Midnight to 6:00 a.m.
Mary Young	6:00 a.m. to Noon
Gilda Mingione	Noon to 6:00 p.m.
Paul Fisher	6:00 p.m. to midnight

In everything you do, put God first and He will direct and crown your efforts with success. (Prov. 16:3)

Welcome to Our Parish Community

The following have registered in the parish since the previous issue

Michel Arabia
Catherine Arthey
Lisa Ann Byrne
Laura Clouser
Jose & Irma De La Ossa
Carol Dempsey
Jean-Felix & Hortense
Dontsop
Megan Dreyer
Theresa Durso
Michael Dyson
Bridget Finlan
Terrie Gaspar
Thomas & Beth Golembeski
Francis Guthridge
Dana Heil
Debora Herman
Diane Herring
Joseph & Gloria Hicks
Ximena Lopez
Daniel & Anita Mazurek
Ronald Meyer
Frank Mills
Christopher & Lisa Oakley
John Parisi
Erica Roselli
Gerard Siaton
William & Rita Thompson
Dominic & Nancy Toscani
Matthew Toscani
Jamie Vegso
Richard Vegso
Julia Ann Wenger

Coming Soon to St. Isaac's Parish!

Heritage of Faith – Vision of Hope, a \$200 million capital and endowment campaign to support the charitable, educational and pastoral needs of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will soon be coming to St Isaac's. The campaign is currently underway in more than 50 parishes, and in the coming months, each of the 269 parishes and missions in the diocese will participate. Monies will be deposited into a separately incorporated 501 (c) (3) charitable fund to be used exclusively to meet six goals:

- (1) \$10 million for the support of poor parishes;
- (2) \$50 million for schools, including "seed money" for the construction of two new high schools in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, with the remainder used as tuition endowments to assist elementary school students and youngsters in five special education schools;
- (3) \$25 million for renovation of the 150-year old Cathedral Basilica, including repairs to the roof and brownstone exterior;
- (4) \$20 million for tuition assistance for seminarians and for improvements to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, which serves 31 dioceses;
- (5) \$15 million to expand the priests' pension fund and renovate Villa St. Joseph, the priests' retirement home in Darby;
- (6) \$10 million to expand services provided by Catholic Social Services, Catholic Health Care Services and the Nutritional Development Services of the archdiocese which serve area residents of all faiths.

Look for more information to come.

You Can Avoid a Stroke!

Life Line Screening Set for Wednesday, June 24

Most people can't identify a single risk factor or a warning sign of stroke, yet over 750,000 Americans will be affected by a stroke this year alone! **Life Line Screening** will be at **St. Isaac Jogues Parish** performing a day of preventive health screenings on **Wednesday, June 24, 2009**. Screenings are fast, painless and offered at low cost. They involve the use of ultrasound technology, and scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which can lead to a stroke, aortic aneurysms which can lead to a rupture, and plaque buildup in the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. Also offered for men and women is a bone density screening to assess their risk for osteoporosis.

These non-invasive, inexpensive and painless, ultrasound tests help people identify their risk for stroke, vascular diseases or osteoporosis early enough for their physician to begin preventive procedures.

The screenings take about 90 minutes or less to complete. The baseline vascular screening package, which includes the Stroke/Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Ankle Brachial Index (hardening of the arteries), and Atrial Fibrillation (irregular heartbeat) screenings, is \$139. Sign up for the complete wellness package (which includes the osteoporosis screening) and pay only \$149. Appointments spaces are limited and pre-registration is required. Sign up now by calling toll free to **1-800-324-1851** or visit **www.lifelinescreening.com** for more information.

Meet Your St. Isaac's Parish Finance Council

Most parishioners are well aware of the Parish Pastoral Council as its meetings are announced in the Sunday Bulletin, and periodically parish-wide elections are held to fill most of the positions on the Council. Less well known, but no less important in the administration of the parish, is the **Parish Finance Council**, which deals with the temporal concerns of the parish.

The Pastor, **Father Harris**, and the Parish Business Manager, **Mr. T. Lee Parry**, are ex officio members of the Council and parishioners are appointed by the Pastor to serve two year terms. Currently, **Joan Fireoved, Richard Pawlewicz, Catherine Peacock, Anthony Perretta, and Thomas Pietrocini**, serve on the Finance Council.

The Pastor consults with the Parish Finance Council in the preparation of an annual operating budget of income and expenditures. A final budget should be prepared in accordance with Archdiocesan guidelines and be in place prior to the start of the fiscal year. The Pastor reviews the Annual Parish Financial Report with the Council and consults with it on the dissemination of financial information to the faithful of the parish. The Pastor periodically provides the Council with a report of actual income and expenditures. Reviewing this information, the Council makes recommendations on any adjustments that might be required. The Pastor may wish to consult with the Council in certain areas including, but not limited to,

(Continued on page 6)

Events for Women at St. Isaac's

Walking with Purpose

"Something magical happened at *Walking with Purpose*...it was really a special experience of God," says Cathy, one of the program participants at St. Isaac's. This dynamic faith-sharing group for women began at St. Isaac's last September. Over forty women participated in the Wednesday afternoon program, which offered women a chance to reflect, journal, and discuss selections from the Gospel. Through group discussions of the Gospel readings, the meaning of the sacraments, and encouragement to practice daily prayer, many women found their faith come alive with deep and rich meaning for their daily lives.

Jane, who participated with a friend says, "I'm so happy to be a part of this group and so grateful to my friend for inviting me to do it with her...I am so thankful for how good it feels now to pray. Before *Walking with Purpose*, I didn't pray a whole lot. Now I pray the rosary regularly and I have gained a prayer life!"

Michele, a mother of four, says, "I met women I could relate to who taught me how to grow in my relationship with God. It is like a whole new world has opened up for me!" Not only does *Walking with Purpose* inspire the single and married women in the group, it also inspires the preschool children of the participants. Our parish was doubly blessed to offer the exciting children's program **K4J** (Kids for Jesus) for preschool children of the *Walking with Purpose* participants. My four-year-old son, Max, loved the **K4J** program and they even provided childcare for my 18-month old so that I could relax and soak up the delightful conversation, heartfelt prayers, and inspiring presentations. Max proclaimed **K4J** "Way cool mom!" To top it all off, the pro-

gram even provided once a month "Connect Coffees" which gave us all a chance to invite our friends and loved ones to lovely buffet lunches with compelling presentations and speakers. What an amazing gift God has given our parish through *Walking with Purpose*!

If you've been wondering if there is more for you in your relationship with God and you aren't afraid to wrestle with some of those challenging questions you've had about God and our Catholic faith, this is the program for you. We are now accepting registration for this September when we will offer *Walking with Purpose* for new participants and the *Walking with Purpose II* program for the women who participated this past year. For more information contact **Cynthia Castaldi** at 610-415-1068.



Adoration for Mothers and Children

In the gospels, Jesus says "let the children come to me." If you have little ones and you've wanted to visit the adoration chapel but have been concerned about the children distracting other adorers, please join us Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. (The program is already underway). This is a perfect way to connect yourself and your children with the incredible beauty of quiet time spent with Christ. We start with a few simple prayers and then allow for quiet time that takes into account the nature of our beautiful (and sometimes unpredictably vo-

cal) infants and toddlers. For those who are able, plan to join us for playtime and a picnic lunch afterwards at nearby Wilson Farm Park... For more information contact **Christine Wittman** at 610-933-7888.

Evenings for Women

We've been blessed to have three *Evenings for Women* at St. Isaac's in each of the past two years! These evenings offer a time for reflection, inspiration, meaningful discussion, and lots of laughter with friends. If you have seen the flyers posted on the church bulletin boards or in the Sunday Bulletin but have not had the chance to join us, we would love to have you! The *Advent by Candlelight Evening* offers inspiring talks on ways to make Christ the focus of our Christmas celebrations; the evening offers delicious desserts and appetizers at tables lovingly decorated by each woman who hosts a discussion table. The *Lenten Evening* offers a simple meal of homemade soups, salad, and bread as we reflect together on how to keep Lent holy. Our *Evening in May* offers the same wonderful time for connecting with women over the subject of mothering and raising children in a Christian home while we enjoy wine and cheese. For several of the evenings we have even had the great gift of Mass offered just for us. This is the best "ladies' night out" around with eternal rewards for taking time out to refresh and renew our connection with Christ. If you would like to be a part of these evenings contact **Christine Wittman** at 610-933-7888.

Ladies BUNCO Night

Looking for a fun local evening without spending a lot of money? Then mark your calendar for the third

(Continued on page 6)

Ladies BUNCO Night...

(Continued from page 5)

Thursday of every month and join us for St. Isaac's BUNCO night!

BUNCO is a Prohibition era parlor game that has enjoyed renewed popularity in recent years as it sweeps neighborhoods, parishes, and community groups everywhere. Based entirely on the roll of the dice, it takes just minutes to learn. No special skills are required. We play 12 rounds with a break in the middle for conversation, refreshments, and shopping.

One of the best aspects of BUNCO is that after every round, players rotate tables so you can meet new people and play with most of the other ladies who attend that evening. It does not require a lot of thought of complex score-keeping making it a good way to unwind at the end of your week and visit with friends at the same time!

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the games start at approximately 7:30 p.m. The cost is only \$5 to play and we award four cash prizes for Most Wins, Most Losses, Most BUNCOS, and Most Baby BUNCOS. (A BUNCO is simply three of a kind.)

After the BUNCO game, we play the Dollar Game where everyone gathers at a large table to play. It is one of those things you just have to see to believe! There is always a lot of laughter, suspense and yelling. (Just at the dice, not at each other.) The dollar game costs only \$3 to play and the winner's prize is usually over \$60!



Playing the Dollar Game, from left, Carol Vinci, Helen Maggio, Angela Varrichio, Maria Avitable, guest, and Rita Marchiano



From left, Eileen Watson, Jennifer Neclerio, Sheila Bommentre, Jackie Banister, and Cynthia Castaldi

St. Isaac's BUNCO game was started over two years ago by some of the mothers from the St. Isaac's preschool with the purpose of increasing the sense of community between the preschool and the parish. Money raised in excess of the prizes was given to the preschool. Starting this month, we will divide excess funds between the preschool and the St. Isaac Rainy Day Fund. In addition, there are vendors who come and display their merchandise and donate part of their sales to St. Isaac's.

BUNCO is fun, inexpensive, and a great escape for a few hours. Check the Sunday Bulletin for announcements; upcoming BUNCO nights are Thursday, May 28, and Wednesday, June 24. We hope to see you there.

BUNCO Committee

**Sheila Bommentre, Karen Parano
Cynthia Castaldi, Eileen Watson**

Parish Finance Council...

(Continued from page 4)

the selection of computer hardware and software, banking arrangements, investments, maintenance contracts and internal controls. The advice of the Council is often sought regarding significant parish expenditures, particularly capital expenditures for repair, renovation or construction of parish facilities. Finally, the Council assists the Pastor in reviewing maintenance and utility costs seeking to minimize these costs through preventative maintenance, energy conservation programs, and the appropriate use of volunteers.

Whenever parishioners have concerns about any aspect of parish temporalities, they are properly addressed to the Parish Finance Council.

Parish Photo Directory

Our directory is due for an update in 2010. Planning is already underway but we need volunteers to help with the update. Please call the Rectory Office at 610-687-3366 for information.

Passion Play Oberammergau

By Jan Paytas

(Editor's note: Janis M. Paytas is a St. Isaac's parishioner who also owns World Wide Consolidated Travel Service, Inc. Jan is preparing for a return trip to Oberammergau next year.)

It seems like only yesterday but it will soon be ten years since I accompanied four different groups to the world famous Passion Play, held in Oberammergau, Germany. All of those seeing and partaking of this wonderful event experienced a profound enthusiasm and a somber devotion beyond belief.

According to village chronicles dating from the year 1859, the Passion Play originated from a vow the Oberammergauers made in the year 1633. At that time, the Black Plague was decimating all of Europe. The village elders met and made a "promise" to hold an event to honor God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son, if their village could be spared from this terrible disease.

Miraculously, the plague passed by the village and no inhabitant was felled. The municipal officials decided that a "play" would be the best avenue to fulfill their promise and, after much thought and debate, it was decided that this play would be a "Decade Play" held every ten years.

The first "mini" play was performed the following year, 1634, but was later scheduled to coincide with the beginning of the decades.

Over the years, many changes have occurred but what has not changed is the village participation. Only villagers and their families may partake as actors, etc. Initially, contests were held to see who would play the principal roles: Jesus, Pilot, Judas, Peter, etc. Even women's parts, Mary and Veronica, for example, were played by men since, in the Middle Ages, women had no status. Obviously, this is one of the changes that have been introduced. In 1979, major changes occurred in the scripting to eliminate misconceptions regarding blame for Christ's passion and death, and possible anti-Semitism.

It takes the village approximately four years to get the production in place. The actors and actresses are all amateur and begin to "live" their roles two years out, growing hair, beards, etc. Children in the group scenes are usually the offspring of the older actors and many subsequently assume the leading roles in later productions.

The play continues to this day...the theater has changed from full outdoors to partially covered, but the stage is always in the open. To have experienced the play in this beautiful natural setting is one of my most cherished memories. I hope each and every one of you has the opportunity to visit and experience this area and the Passion Play. Remember, if you plan to go in the fall, you may also have some snowflakes falling during the most somber moments....GOD'S FROZEN TEARDROPS. What a sight to behold!

Youth Group Looking to an Active Summer

The motto of our Youth Group here at Saint Isaac's is *To grow spiritually and socially with the Lord!* Meetings are held every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 6-8 p.m. in the Video Room at St. Isaac's and will continue through the summer months.

The Youth Group has been coordinating our Parish 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday evenings. The results have been most encouraging; the congregation continues to grow at that Mass. The Youth Group is welcoming our young people to participate as readers, singers, ushers, and musicians. We have much talent here and it really shows at Mass.

The Youth Group is open to all youth between the grades of 8 - 12! We look forward to seeing you around at one or all the events coming up! If you have any questions, please contact the Youth Ministry Office at 610-687-2481 ext. 5 or visit our website and click on Youth Ministry.



The Atheist in the Woods

An atheist was walking through the woods, thinking to himself:

"How beautiful the animals are!"

"How majestic the trees are!"

"How powerful the rivers are!"

As he walked along the river, he heard rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned and saw an eight-foot grizzly bear charging towards him. He ran along the path as fast as he could, but when he looked over his shoulder, he saw that the bear was closing in on him.

He kept running, but when he looked over his shoulder again, the bear was even closer. Then he tripped and fell on the ground. The bear was right on top of him with his right paw raised to strike him. At that instant, the atheist cried, "God help me!"

(Continued on page 8)

St. Isaac Jogues Parish

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We're on the Web!
www.stisaac.org

Pray
for
Peace
and
the
Family



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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00, 10:30 a.m. 12:00
noon and 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. & 12:05
p.m.

National Holidays: 9:00 a.m.

Holy Day: 8:00 a.m., 12:05 and 7:30
p.m. (Holy Day)

Christmas & New Year's
follow the Sunday schedule.

Legion of Mary: Monday, 1:00 p.m.;
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

**Cenacle, Marian Movement of
Priests:** Tuesday 1:30 p.m.

Holy Hour: Thursdays 8:00 p.m.

Night of Reparation: 1st Friday 7:30
p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

Sunday: 15 minutes before most
Masses

Sacrament of the Sick: Please call
the Rectory.

The Atheist...

(Continued from page 7)

Time stopped.
The bear froze.
The forest was silent.

A bright light shone upon the man and a voice from the sky said, "You've denied my existence for all these years and have even taught others that I don't exist. You've even credited creation to a cosmic accident. Why would you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Are you now a believer?"

The atheist looked into the light and said, "Well, I would be a hypocrite to suddenly ask You to treat me as a Christian now.....but could you, maybe, make the BEAR a Christian?"

"Very well," said the Voice.

The light went out.
The sounds of the forest resumed.

The bear lowered his right paw and brought both paws together. He bowed his head and said, "Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive from Your bounty through Christ Our Lord, Amen."