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# ***Anna Gram April 2016***

***News from St. Anna's Episcopal Church***

***www.stannanola.org***

***504-947-2121***

## ***The Extravaganza is Almost Here!***

When: Saturday, April 16, 7-10 pm

Where: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 62249 Canal Blvd.

How much: \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door

Program: Music, Food, Auctions, Tony Leggio and Miss Elizabeth Bouvier--it's going to be great!

**WHY?--This is St. Anna's primary fundraiser for the mission work we do through *Anna's Place NOLA*--after school and Saturday classes for kids, camp, health and wholeness. THIS IS THE BIG ONE--COME, BRING YOUR FRIENDS, and ENJOY!**

## ***Senior Warden's Report***

Hello all. I hope everyone is enjoying this lovely spring we are having here in New Orleans. It's truly hard to believe that April is already here, and that Easter has passed. What a beautiful Easter service we had at St. Anna's-- it was fantastic to see the standing-room-only crowd.

The Extravaganza is right around the corner yet ticket sales have not met expectations. So please, let's all do our part to ensure that Anna's Place NOLA gets all the support it needs-- BUY A TICKET TODAY!!! And don't forget to tell your friends, families, and neighbors what an amazing event full of music, food, and lots of fun this will be! The next meeting for the Extravaganza committee will be Tuesday, April 5 at Karen Judge's home. Good news on the restroom renovations! One of our parishioners has located some toilets, free of charge, for use in our upgrades. I know we have all been busy this Lenten and Easter season, but I'm sure that once the Extravaganza is in the books we will be able to focus on improvements. After a one year hiatus, the Vestry will once again attend a summer retreat at the Solomon Episcopal Center in Loranger. The facility is located on very beautiful and tranquil acreage. Vestry members should start making plans to attend the weekend of July 15-17.

Due to illness I was unable to attend the first meeting of our new finance committee. I look forward to the next meeting on Monday, April 4.

And last but certainly never least, the next Vestry meeting will be on Monday, April 18 at 6:30 pm. All parishioners are invited to attend in order to see 'what makes St. Anna's tick.'

Til next time!



me, I saw gifts everywhere in the trays on the altar holding our gifts of possession, in the voices of the choir that was heralding so beautifully this morning of resurrection, and in the faces of the children who are a very special part of our life as a community of worship.

So many gifts, and they came from God, and the willingness of the people of St. Anna's to respond in gifts of love. We are richly blessed!

### **From Fr. Bill**

#### **St. Anna's "mail bag."**

People often write to us either by e-mail or snail mail. We want to share some of what we have the privilege to receive.

*On Mon, Mar 21, 2016 at 8:57 Jennifer wrote:*

Hi! My family and I will be visiting New Orleans over the Easter weekend, and we are interested in attending an Easter service. What time are your services on Easter Sunday, and would travelers be welcome? It seems like from your site that they would be. I would love to hear from you if you have a moment to email back. We are engaged in a church search in our hometown of Los Angeles as well, and have not tried an Episcopal church yet, but the diversity presented on your site seems very appealing, as does your mission statement.

Thanks so much for your time. I look forward to hearing from you! -Jen

*We responded that, "of course you are welcomed and indeed encouraged to join us, etc."*

Hi Fr. Bill and Luigi!

Thank you so much for making our family feel so welcome on Easter Sunday. You have such a wonderful thing going at your church--I love how you are serving the community in such tangible and meaningful ways! The sermon was a great one, too. Luigi, I am sorry we did not get to introduce ourselves--we had to run to a friend's house after the service for an Easter lunch he had prepared. But you may remember us--we were the family with the kids that didn't really know how to take communion. :-) It was nice to see you even though we didn't get a chance to talk.

Anyway, thanks again for your kind welcome. We hope to find a church as engaging, active and Spirit-filled as yours here in Los Angeles!  
-Jen

From 2007 until about 2010 St. Anna's hosted what was called "The Mission to Musicians." It was a post Katrina ministry that sought to employ working musicians while the club scene and venues were virtual nil. Every Wednesday we hosted literally hundreds of visitors, locals, and musicians to play music, receive medical and mental health care, legal advice,  
Hello....today is my birthday and a lot of people are giving me nice memories. I decided I would write to you and say thank you for your help in saving my life for without your services I might not be alive....I was a drunk musician living in NOLA and bleeding internally. Your musician services allowed me to visit with

therapist D\_\_\_ who helped me get help and sober up. My first year was a mess but people put up with me for which I'm grateful. It's been 8 1/2 years and I am involved with helping folks get clean today.

On Facebook after our Sunday Baptisms:

[Erik Adrian Alexander](#): What a beautiful and perfect day. It may have been raining outside but the sun was shining in St. Anna's. It's such a blessing to be welcomed with open hearts. [*We baptized baby Alli Mae who smiled like an angel.*]

### **Life of a Parish Administrator**

**-- Luigi Mandile**

Holy week is over..... Yes Holy week in the Parish office can be very challenging. Even after ten years of being an Admin at St Anna's it can still be a challenge. After Easter Father Terry and I usually take one or two days off to catch our breath. This is also a time that I take to worship at one of the Holy week services. I sit in the back row alone and just stay silent. OK, that's difficult for me; all of you that know me understand that. But it's my alone time at church.

When I began to attend service at St. Anna's I had so many questions for Father Terry. One that many in my family still ask me is, "Do you believe in the Blessed Mother?" Father Terry explained to me that being an Episcopalian you should ask questions, in fact he encouraged it. Wow, I can ask questions on Church Dogma! I did not know where to start.

The only time I attend a Roman Catholic mass now a days is to attend a baptism, wedding or funeral. As you all know from my last article Sean's father is living with us, and he is a devout Roman Catholic. He attended the Jesuit Church in the CBD. Now living in Chalmette he wanted to try and find a church by us. There are only two Roman Catholic churches in our area. So I brought him to two try both of them on a Saturday evening mass.

I think I have been away from the Roman Church long enough that I was totally confused. When the Priest would say "The Lord Be with you" everyone replied with their hands up in the air, "and with thy Spirit." When it was time to say the Lord's Prayer, everyone joined hands, some went into the aisle and made a circle. Of course I broke the hand-holding chain! And as the Lord's Prayer was finishing I automatically kept on going with "and thine is the kingdom and the power.....," got me some hard stares from those around me.

A few days later I sat with Sean's dad and we spoke about the mass we attended. I asked him when they started saying "and with thy spirit." He replied that it was a while ago, three or four years ago. I then asked "Why?" The answer I received was, "I have no ideal we were told to say it." I asked him if he was okay with someone telling him to just say a response without any explanation. He asked if we were allowed to ask questions and I said, "Yes, of course."

I continue to this day to ask questions. The answer may be short or long (OK, it's Father Terry answering!) but it truly helps me in my learning. Let's

be honest—there was only so much I was able to learn of scripture from Ben Hur, The Robe, or Barabbas!

### ***April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month***

Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact. This can include words and actions of a sexual nature against a person's will and without their consent. Consent is voluntary, mutual, and can be withdrawn at any time. Sexual violence happens in every community and affects people of all genders and ages. The impacts affect individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole. Sexual violence is preventable. We can all help create a culture of empathy, respect, and equity.

Help is available. Local sexual assault centers can provide help. In crisis situations, contact [1-800-656-4673](tel:1-800-656-4673). For more information, visit [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org).

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) uses the term "military sexual trauma" or "MST" to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment during military service. Veterans can receive [free treatment](#) for mental and physical health conditions related to their MST. For help with healthcare or treatment options contact your [local VA medical center](#) and ask to speak to the MST Coordinator. Veterans can apply for [disability compensation](#) for difficulties related to MST. For help contact the [MST Coordinator](#) at your local [Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office](#).

### ***April Birthdays***

- 6 Doug Howard, Zoe Threat
- 8 Chuck Haase, Jr.
- 11 Marco Meneghini
- 13 Christopher Parker-Karst
- 15 Kirk Toups
- 17 Althea Atkins, Zachary Gillespie
- 20 Ella Gottschalk, Jalyn Gottschalk
- 23 Georgia Boswell
- 24 Susan Redick, Karel Sloane-Boekbinder
- 26 Benjamin Springgate
- 27 Charlotte Cocchiara, Jennifer Cole
- 28 Emmaline Boswell
- 30 Hutch Terry



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