

FROM THE PASTOR

Our upcoming celebration of Christmas in a few weeks passes through the heart and preaching of St. John the Baptist, who bids us "prepare the way of the Lord" through our repentance from sin and acceptance of the new life the Lord wishes us to embrace.

Thanks to all who participated in the Advent Reconciliation Service last week, in which our second graders made their First Confession. If you were not available for this opportunity, there will be a Penance Service at St. Thomas Parish in Elkhart at 11AM on Saturday, December 12, with plenty of Priests (myself included) to administer the Lord's mercy.

And if you are looking for some new daily ways to prepare for Christmas, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has an excellent calendar on their website (at www.usccb.org/advent/) with great spiritual exercises for each day of Advent.

As I mentioned two weeks ago, a number of parishioners have brought to my attention concerns they have heard on EWTN and from other organizations (e.g., the American Life League and Human Life International) related to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), a yearly collection sponsored by the American Bishops' Conference.

From my own research, I have concluded that the clearest expression of these concerns can be found at the website of the American Life League (at www.all.org/cchd). You can access the official response to these concerns at the USCCB's website (at www.usccb.org/cchd/ ---click on "For the Record---CCHD Responds to Allegations").

For those who do not have access to these resources on the computer, there are printed copies for your viewing in the Parish Office. After studying the thicket of particulars, I have concluded that there is the potential for much good to come from both internal and external inquiries leading to increased transparency and greater accountability in the national disbursement of grant monies from the CCHD program.

It is the local Bishop who each year makes the discernment of continuing or discontinuing this program in his diocese. It nonetheless always remains the free and prudently informed decision of each household whether or not to contribute to any particular program.

As Pastor of Queen of Peace, I remain convinced that your (and my) charitable giving directly to our Parish---which funds our exceptionally active and effective St. Vincent de Paul Society---as well as to our Diocese's Annual Bishop's Appeal (all of whose funds remain in our local community of Ft. Wayne-South Bend) provides the best---which is to say the most direct, transparent, accountable, and effective---way for us together to place the necessary resources into the hands of our neighbors most in need.

And on that subject, congratulations to our middle-schoolers, who were invited this past week to a luncheon at the Century Center hosted by the Center for the Homeless to honor those whose generosity has benefited the Center during the past year. Way to go, Pumas!

From Blessed Mary, Christ the Lord is our Peace!

Fr. Daniel Scheidt

PARISH NEWS

YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED - Thank you for your support of last week's Collection for the Campaign for Human Development! Because of your generosity, more low-income people in the United States will be able to break the cycle of poverty and improve their communities.



Papa Vino's Spaghetti Dinner

at

Queen of Peace

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

*Feast of the Immaculate Conception
of Mary & Holy Day of Obligation*

Dinner includes: Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce, Salad, Bread, Dessert

Dine In service from 5—7 PM

Carry Out service from 5—6:50 PM,

with after-7 PM Mass pickup available if ticket

presented by 6:50 PM

Adult Dine-In: \$7.00

Child (3-10 yrs.) Dine-In: \$4.00

Carry-Out (Adults/Child): \$6.00

*Carry Out available 5-6:50 PM, or packaged
for pick up after Mass*

Tickets available through Parish Office and at the door.
Contact *Carol Cone* at 255-9674 x119.

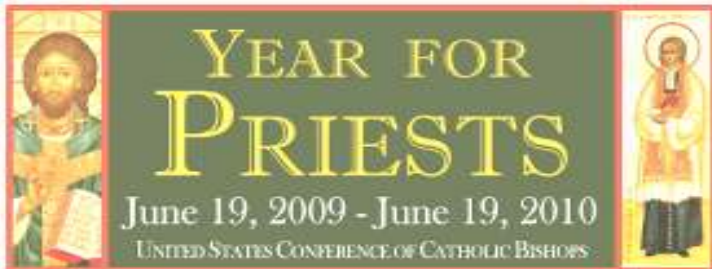


MUSIC SPONSORS - Please prayerfully consider being a sponsor to fully or partially underwrite the **Brass Ensemble** for the December 16- Advent Lessons and Carols or any of the Christmas Masses. Donors/Memorials will be recognized in the worship aid on those days. Your financial support directly provides the means by which we may help our parish praise and worship God in song. Contact Aaron Renninger for more information.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - Tuesday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This day celebrates our belief that Mary was free from sin from the moment of her conception. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at 8:15 AM and 7 PM.

LESSONS AND CAROLS - The parish children's and adult choirs invite you to our 3rd Annual Advent Lessons and Carols on Wed. Dec. 16 at 7 PM. Come prepare for the birth of Christ in Advent scripture readings, choral music, and assembly sung carols led by brass and organ.

ADVENT VESPERS- Candlelight Vespers (Evening Prayer) will be prayed the Sundays of Advent at 5 PM. All are welcome to join in prayer with our parish family as we prepare together for Christmas.



The Great Dignity of the Priesthood

by Fr. Paul Philippe, O.P.

Priests are made, participate in, and are, in a way, sacramentally identified with the very being of Christ the Priest, by the mere fact that they are priests, independent of their sanctity or personal mission.

But this great dignity of the priesthood, this formidable power, "which makes demons tremble, and which the angels recognize," as St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, which we try to sound but which we understand so badly, Our Blessed Lady knows and sees it all in the clarity of the Christ-Priest.

For her, a priest is always a priest, a living image of her Son, and if that image is disfigured by sin, she only has a more ardent desire to give him back that resemblance to Christ, for she sees him as God sees him and with the very sight of God. Now, Mother Claret de la Touche writes: "God the Father sees in the priest the most perfect image of the Word Incarnate, a second 'Jesus' so like the first that he could be taken for Him. He sees in him a luminous mirror in which the virtues of his beloved Son are reflected. He hears the voice of Jesus in the voice of the priest. The Word sees in the priest a brother, a friend, a product of His heart, another self by whom He continues all His works, and in whom His human life and His life of Priest and Victim is prolonged as it were through the centuries."

Second Sunday of Advent

Prayer for God's Work in Us

Good and gracious God,
 source of all light and joy,
 in the beginning, you created us to be your own.
 You filled us with grace at our Baptism,
 calling us to love and know you.
 You helped us to discern what is of value in this life
 and to seek out our good in your light.

Continue your work in us, O Lord,
 so that we might be renewed in faith
 and prepare the way of your Son.
 Every day, Lord, continue your work in us,
 so that at the coming of Christ Jesus,
 we can show forth the glory of your name
 and be a sign of your presence on this earth.
 We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



Weekly AND Summer P.R.E.P. Confirmation Candidates – the date has been set for your retreat – so set aside Saturday, March 6 for a retreat here at Queen of Peace based on Pope John Paul II's document "Theology of the Body", and led by Monica and John Sikorski from the Diocesan Office of Family Life.



Tuesday, December 8
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

FRESH CHRISTMAS TREE VOUCHERS - As we begin to reflect on the Reason for the Season, a timeless traditional way to do so is by trimming your home with LIVE Christmas decorations. This year the 8th grade class is selling vouchers for live Christmas trees. The 8th grade will earn \$5 for every tree voucher sold with profits to benefit their class trip at the end of the school year. The deadline to order trees is December 15. Call Jennifer Kasznia at 674-0115 or the Parish Office for more details.



The Order Forms are located in the media rack to the left of the Parish Office.

In the days ahead, we will be thinking, praying, and singing about the breathtaking truth that our God became a human being, Jesus Christ, in order to come closer to us and to save us from sin. Today we focus on Mary, the mother of Jesus. We thank God for giving her a special grace: from the moment of her conception in her mother's womb, she was kept free of any sin. Mary would still have to choose to be open to God's will, and happily for us, she did. God's special grace to Mary insured that having been chosen, she would be a very pure and fitting person through which to bring Jesus into the world. Thanks be to God!

REJOICE! BE JOYFUL!! GAUDETTE SUNDAY DEC. 13 -

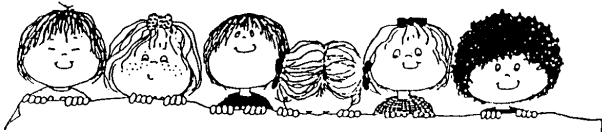
The word Gaudette means "rejoice". It is a day to be joyful about the coming of Jesus. Help us spread this joyful message by decorating the Parish Tree next weekend, Dec. 12 & 13. We are asking families to either make or donate an ornament for our tree. The tree will stand in the school commons area throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Feel free to visit the commons and place your ornament upon our tree.

OUR GIVING TREE - Help our Jubilee Society help others this holiday season by taking an ornament from our Giving Tree and purchasing the item listed for the Woman's Care Center. Purchased items (leave unwrapped!) may be placed in the box under the tree until December 20. Thank you for your generosity.



Please check out the December flyer in the media rack next to the parish office. Orders are due by Monday, Dec. 7 (or internet orders by 12/8) and order delivery is Monday, Dec. 14 from 2:30—3:30 PM in the commons. Stock up on all our goodies for your holiday get-togethers!

SCHOOL NEWS



ADVENT PRAYER SERVICES: During the season of Advent students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities intended to prepare our students for the coming of Christ. Each Monday morning students will gather in the gymnasium, or in their grade-levels for our advent prayer service. Each week students will enjoy a variety of activities related to certain Feast Days and/or customs of the Advent season.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: This upcoming Tuesday, December 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Students will be honoring Our Lady by having Mass on Tuesday of this week rather than on Friday. Students should wear their Mass attire this day, regardless of any specialty classes they may have.

TRIM A TREE: Like last year, students at Queen of Peace will be trimming a tree as part of this year's Advent preparation. A large evergreen tree will be on display in the vestibule of the school starting next week. Students as well as parishioners are encouraged to help decorate our tree by either donating or making an ornament.

D.A.R.E. GRADUATION: Students in the 5th grade will celebrate their successful completion of the Mishawaka Police Department's D.A.R.E. Program with a Commencement ceremony that is to be held on December 18th at 1:30 PM in the afternoon. Please plan on joining Mayor Rea and Lt. Williams as they congratulate our 5th grade students on this accomplishment.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - Our Queen of Peace Conference

wishes to thank all those who contributed so generously to last week's hygiene collection. Your continuing efforts assist us in our ministry to those in need. God bless you and your families for the concern you show for others. A special thanks to our Queen of Peace Young Vincentians (Mini Vinnies) who

prepared 15 Thanksgiving meal baskets for those in need from food donated by Queen of Peace students.

Our next non-perishable food collection will be held on December 12 and 13th. Our pantry is in need of the following: canned pasta w/meat, cereal, oatmeal, canned tomato products, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, and syrup.

Please let us know if you or someone you know is in need by contacting our parish office at 255-9674 or one of our St. Vincent DePaul members. All inquiries are kept confidential.



DECEMBER CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE DISPLAY RACK NEXT TO THE PARISH OFFICE

AROUND TOWN

ST. NICHOLAS ARRIVES! - St. Nicholas (Sw. Mikolaj) will visit St. Casimer Parish of Friday, December 11 at 6:30 PM for a traditional meal and koledy (Christmas carols). Homemade pierogi, noodles, beef and pastries will be served. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for ages 5 -12. Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office, 2505 W. Grace St. or by calling 287-9551

CRAFT SALE - Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, will hold a Holiday Craft Sale on Friday, Dec. 11 from noon—6:00 PM. 100% handcrafted items from regional & global artisans. Pottery, jewelry, candles, Christmas ornaments, and more. Located in Le Mans Hall on the Saint Mary's Campus. Enter via Route 933 and Douglas Road.

COME CELEBRATE THE SEASON - The Antioch Youth Group and the Marian High School Liturgical Choir cordially invite you to attend a "Festival of Lessons & Carols" on Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 PM at St. Bavo Church, 511 W. 7th St., Mishawaka. This wonderful service of 9 readings, traditional carols, choral renditions and moving solos will be a special blessing to you. Come hear our youth joyfully sing as we prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming!



JOIN US ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11! -You are invited to attend a Day of Reflection at Our Lady of Angels Convent, Mishawaka (across from Marian High School) on Wednesday, December 16, from 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM. The theme for the day is "Joy". Please bring your bible. The cost for the day is \$15.00 and includes lunch. Please register before Friday, December 11, by calling Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 259-5427.



ANNUAL COOKIE WALK - St. Monica's Rosary Society is hosting its annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 9:00—noon. If you are too busy to bake a variety of cookies for the holidays, this is the way to go. Stop in and enjoy a cup of coffee and make your cookie selections! Located in the lower level of the Church, 222 West Mishawaka Ave.



SUPPORT GROUP - There is a Parkinson's Support Group who meets the first Monday of every month. Please call Pat Feehly 574-252-0101 or Bill Siri 574-674-6542 for more information.

LOOKING TO LOSE A FEW POUNDS? Would you like to eat your favorite holiday foods while you learn how to lose weight? The Light Weigh is a Bible study DVD series without weigh-ins that gets you healthy physically and spiritually. A Light Weigh Orientation meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 7 from 6:00—7:00 PM at St. Joseph—Mishawaka—Parish Office for anyone who would like to find out more about this life-changing program.


SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES- Dine at the Applebee's at 3703 Portage Rd., South Bend (this location only) Mon. Dec. 7 and 15% of your bill will be donated to Catholic Charities. Must present special flyer to your server to qualify. The flyers are available at the Parish Office.

NUTRITION SITE IN OUR AREA - R.E.A.L Services operates a nutrition site Monday—Friday at 11:00 AM at the United Methodist Church on Beech Road in Osceola. You can contact Bev at 574-674-6503 for more information.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

- Monday, December 7 - Saint Ambrose**
8:15AM Jack Hummel - *Hummel Family*
- Tuesday, December 8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**
8:15AM Marianne DeMeyer - *The DeMeyer Family*
7:00 PM Kayleen Niedermeyer - *Mr. & Mrs. H. Kolman*
- Wednesday, December 9 - Saint Juan Diego**
8:15AM Jeanette Soltys - *Robert & Norma Fisher*
- Thursday, December 10 - Weekday**
8:15AM Intentions of Christopher & Bradley LaBelle - *Gigi & Papa Moser*
- Friday, December 11 - Saint Damasus I**
8:15AM Helen & Edward Lukaszewski - *The Children of Helen & Edward Lukaszewski*
- Saturday, December 12 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**
5:30PM Terry & Chong Mays / Helen Lukaszewski - *Oky & Dave Lukaszewski*
- Sunday, December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent**
7:30AM Marge Lang - *Dave & Pat Lang*
9:30AM Parish Community
11:45AM Mamie Markiewicz - *Joe & Mary Ann DeKever*

Bulletin— "Sponsor of the Week"
Please Patronize Our Sponsors...They help make this bulletin possible. Let them know you heard about them here!!
Randy Leliaert Agency
 Auto-Home-Business-Health-Life
 674-0015
Randy Leliaert— Parishioner

 *Gifts for God* **Offertory Collection**

Amount needed for Balanced 2009-2010 Budget.....\$11,600.00

	11/22/09	
Adult (294 envelopes)		\$8,854.00
Loose		\$1,320.00
Children (40 envelopes)		\$69.91
<i>Total</i>		\$10,243.91
<i>Growing Together With Christ</i> (3 envelopes)		\$115.00
<i>Campaign for Human Development</i> (47 envelopes)		\$589.00
	11/29/09	
Adult (266 envelopes)		\$9,763.30
Loose		\$1,442.49
Children (34 envelopes)		\$45.00
<i>Total</i>		\$11,250.79
<i>Growing Together With Christ</i> (5 envelopes)		\$285.96
<i>Thanksgiving</i> (37 envelopes)		\$545.00

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Monday, December 7**
8:15 AM Mass
6:00 PM Jubilee Society, Room 10
6:00 PM Volleyball games, Gym
- Tuesday, December 8 - Immaculate Conception**
8:15 AM All School Mass
8:45 AM Prayer/Share, Parish Library
5-7:00 PM Papa Vino's Dinner
7:00 PM Mass
- Wednesday, December 9**
8:15 AM Mass
- Thursday, December 10**
8:15 AM Mass
7:00 PM Adult Choir
7-8:30 PM RCIA Inquiry, Commons
- Friday, December 11**
8:15 AM Mass
6:00 PM Volleyball Games, Gym
- Saturday, December 12**
3:30-5 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
5:30 PM Vigil Mass - *Children's Choir*
- Sunday, December 13**
7:30, 9:30, 11:45 AM Mass
St. Vincent de Paul Food Sunday
10:30 - 11:40 AM Weekly PREP, School
1:00 PM Basketball Games, Gym
5:00 PM Vespers



Coming Events **3rd Annual Advent Lessons & Carols**
 Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 PM