

FROM THE PASTOR

On the Third Day of Christmas---this very Sunday---our True Love, the Lord Himself, gives to us . . . the Solemnity of the Holy Family. On December 25 our attention was rightly focused on the Person of Jesus Christ and the Mystery of His Incarnation made visible in His Birth.

But today's Feast celebrates that Jesus chose to be born of the family of Mary and Joseph. We might even say that Mary and Joseph are Baby Jesus' first gifts to us, because He wishes to share with all of our families---however crazy they may be---the graces he first shared with His Mother and adopted father in that lowly stable.

From the bottom of my heart, I wish to thank all of the Parish Staff and the army of volunteers who served in so many visible and hidden ways to help us gather so joyfully and adore the Newborn King so beautifully during these Christmas days.

In particular, I wish to thank all those who had a hand in the creation of the new Confessional at Queen of Peace. When some of the final elements and finishing touches are put in place, we shall formally bless and dedicate it for sacred use as a "little Bethlehem" in our church, a place where the Savior and His mercy can be humbly welcomed in the forgiveness of sins.

Heartfelt thanks also for the many gifts you have given to me for Christmas. Try as I may since coming to Queen of Peace, my thank-you notes have never been able to catch up to the countless acts of your generosity which have made my life so much sweeter. My New Year's resolution is to pen my cards of gratitude more promptly and frequently!

Please mark on your calendars our upcoming Epiphany Choral Concert, which will be Thursday, January 7 at 7PM in church. As Catholics we believe that the Christmas season does not end on December 25 but rather begins on that day. Next Sunday, January 3 is the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the Feast of the Twelfth Day of Christmas that inspired the song of that name. Also, join us at 5PM on January 3 for Vespers (Evening Prayer) by candlelight as we sing more hymns of Christmas.

Finally, this Friday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God---a Holy Day of Obligation. There is no better way to welcome the new calendar year, as the world calculates time, than by coming to this Feast to worship the Lord of all time, Who for love of us chose to be born in time from the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Vigil Mass will be Thursday, December 31 at 7PM, and Mass on New Year's Day will be at 9AM.

From Blessed Mary, Christ the Lord is our Peace!

Fr. Daniel Scheidt

P.S. In honor of these Christmas feasts honoring the Incarnation of Our Lord from Our Lady, enjoy the following poem from Peter Kreeft and Ronald Tacelli's *Handbook of Catholic Apologetics*, entitled "Jesus and Mary:"

Jesus and Mary

Body of Christ , from Mary's body;
Blood of Christ, from Mary's blood.

Jesus the bread, Mary the yeast;
Mary the kitchen, Jesus the feast.

Mary the Mother by whom we are fed;
Mary the oven, Jesus the bread.

Mary the soil, Jesus the vine;
Mary the wine maker, Jesus the wine.

Jesus the Tree of Life, Mary the sod;
Mary our God-bearer, Jesus our God.

Mary the silkworm, Jesus the silk;
Mary the nurse, Jesus the milk.

Mary the stem, Jesus the flower;
Mary the stairway, Jesus the tower.

Mary and Jesus, our castle entire;
Mary the fireplace, Jesus the fire.

Mary God's ink, Jesus God's name;
Mary the burning bush, Jesus the flame.

Mary the paper, Jesus the Word;
Mary the nest, Jesus the bird.

Mary the artery, Jesus the blood,
Mary the floodgate, Jesus the flood.

Mary and Jesus, our riches untold;
Mary the goldmine, Jesus the gold.

PARISH NEWS



CHORAL CONCERT- On Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7 PM our parish children's and adult choirs, and school students will present an Epiphany Choral Concert in the church. Music performed will include Christmas pieces from around the world and assembly sung carols. Bring a friend.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - Friday, Jan. 1 is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. This day honors Mary as *Theotokos* or *God-bearer*, the title accorded her at the Council of Ephesus in 431. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. A Vigil Mass will be held on Thursday, December 31 at 7 PM. Mass on Jan. 1 will be held at 9 AM. Liturgical Ministers are still needed, please sign up in the sacristy.

St. Francis Convent
 1515 Dragoon Trail
 Mishawaka, IN 46544-0766

Dear Fr. Dan, and Vincentians,

I'd like to express my gratitude to you and ask the blessing of God on all you did to pull furniture together for the family in South Bend. The house was empty, but by the end of the day it was beginning to look like space which could be lived in.



During the time of Advent you accepted the challenge of providing for the Mary's, Josephs, and Christ Childs still walking the streets of our world. May the Blessed Infant Jesus reward you for all your efforts and generous kindnesses. You were challenged and you came through with flying colors!

And we actually all enjoyed the "journey to Egypt", that is, driving around to pick the items up and meet your wonderful parishioners. Thanks for the honor of serving Christ's needy one with you!

Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF
St. Francis Convent

SENIOR LUNCHEON - is Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at Noon. Menu: Stew, salad, roll/butter; chocolate and lemon surprise desserts. Sign-up sheet is on bulletin board in gathering area of church. Any questions contact Linda O'Neil, 250-3688.

ANNUAL PRO-LIFE EDUCATIONAL AD - Included in today's bulletin is the permission slip and envelope for the annual Right-to-Life Educational ad to run in the South Bend Tribune on January 22 - the 37th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing abortion on demand. If interested in being included, either return the completed form and envelope in next week's collection (Jan 3) or mail *before* Jan. 9 to the address provided (January 9 is the deadline to be included). If you can not afford the \$5 per name, please just contribute what you can... your name will still be printed. Thank you.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

December 31 7:00 PM (Holy Day of Obligation)
 January 1 9:00 AM

EPIPHANY CHORAL CONCERT

January 7 7:00 PM. Christmas pieces from around the world and assembly sung carols. Bring a friend!



There will be no Weekly PREP classes on December 27 and January 3. Classes will resume on January 10, 2010. Enjoy your holiday break!

LOOKING FOR SUPPORT? 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.

AROUND TOWN

TRIP OF A LIFETIME - The Franciscan Communities of Michigan are looking for people to join them on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi from April 12 through April 24, 2010. For further information and a brochure contact Dick McCloskey, SFO at 574-272-4738 dick@aerovisionphoto.com or Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF at 574-259-5427 agnesmarie_2000@yahoo.com

HOLY FAMILY RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR! - Celebrate the New Year at Holy Family's New Year's Eve Party on December 31. Doors open at 6:00 PM and dinner is served at 7:00 PM. Polish Style Sit-down Dinner; Open Bar; Party Favors; Continental Breakfast. Music by DJ Jack Reichert from 8:00—1:00 PM. Tickets at the Holy Family Rectory—\$30.00 per person. Limited number available; call 282-2317 for more information.

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE-COMMUNITY EDUCATION - Community members are invited to join 2 new classes: Aging and the Family and Aging over the Life Span. You can audit the classes for only \$45.00 (you attend when you want and you don't take any tests!). Classes are once a week from 4—6:30 PM. Time is given for a light supper snack. To enroll or for more information— contact Pat Adams at padams@hcc-nd.edu or 574-239-8364. Flyers are also located on the bulletin board in the gathering area.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SERIES—Mondays, January 11 - February 8, 7-9pm at St Joseph Parish Center, South Bend. This 5-week series is for all local young adults (age 18-39, single or married). Dr. Mary Healy's book, *Men and Women are from Eden*, will guide our discussions. Books can be purchased for \$10 at the initial session if requested in advance. This event is co-hosted by the diocesan Office for Campus & Young Adult Ministry, the Office for Family Life, and St Joseph Parish. - John & Monica Sikorski at jksikorski@gmail.com or 574-386-8434

TRIVIA NIGHT AT ST. JOE - Is your head chock full of interesting facts and trivia? If so, call your friends and get together a team for St. Joseph's Trivia Night! January 8, 2010 in the St. Joe Mish Gym. Call 288-4441 (Susan) to get registered.

YOUNG ADULT (18-35) MINI-RETREAT— Join us for an afternoon of prayer, inspiration, and quiet on Sunday, January 17, 2010. *Topic:* Faith & Reason in Today's world and How do we bring Christ to it? *Presenter:* Fr. Glenn Kohrman, Pastor of St. Vincent Parish, Elkhart. *Place:* Convent of Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, 1515 W. Dragoon Tr., Mishawaka. *Time:* 1:00 - 6:00 PM (Sunday Mass at 5:00 PM). *Cost:* \$5.00



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Blessing for a Family or Household

O most gracious God,
you blessed Mary and Joseph with the strength,
courage, and wisdom
to be parents for your Son.

Through them you made your love known to the infant, Jesus.

They were the first of his teachers
of the faith and of the ways of the world.
Through them you shaped a holy family.

Bless our family.

Give us the grace to show your love
to one another and to the world.

Let all who come to our door
find welcome from their travels,
food for their hunger,
and the joy of good company.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday, December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents

In today's Gospel reading (Matthew 2:13–18), Matthew draws a parallel between Jesus and Moses. Herod's order to kill all of the little male children echoes Pharaoh's order to kill the newborn Hebrew boys in Exodus. When Joseph takes Jesus and Mary and flees to Egypt, he saves Jesus' life as surely as Moses' mother saved his when she put him in a basket and floated him down the Nile. For Matthew, Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, and Matthew quotes the prophets Hosea and Jeremiah to show that all that was happening was in keeping with the promise.

Friday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Most of the few stories about Mary in the Gospel are told in Luke's opening chapters. In today's reading, Luke 2:16–21, we learn that after hearing the shepherds describe how the angels had announced to them the birth of the child, "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. . . ." Pondering was the deep spiritual work of this holy woman of God. Barely 14, Mary gave her assent to God's plan, not knowing where it would take her and with what joy and sorrow she would see the birth of her son and his cruel death. But the Word of God and the words of others helped her grow in understanding, and so she kept them until the glory of her son should be fully revealed.



PLEASE JOIN US IN

Epiphany Vespers

The Liturgy of the Hours, the Divine Office, the Breviary are all terms that the Church calls the official daily prayer of the Church with Christ and to Christ. It includes both Morning (Lauds) and Evening Prayer (Vespers), and the lesser hours. It is prayed everyday by Christians throughout the world.

In the evening, we come together to give God praise for blessings received throughout the day and to ask him for protection through the coming night.

After the *Lucernarium* or lighting of candles, we sing a hymn, two psalms, and a New Testament canticle. This is followed by a scripture reading, a responsory, and optionally a reading from one of the early Church fathers.

All stand for the singing of the Gospel Canticle, the song of Mary *Magnificat* from Luke 1:46-55. Its position in the Office as the highpoint is similar to the proclamation of the Gospel in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Petitions are offered followed by the Lord's prayer, prayer of the day, and final blessing.

We then process to the Marian shrine singing the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, the antiphon from the later hour of Night Prayer (Compline).

This official prayer of the Church is an excellent way to pray together with Catholics throughout the world. It lasts less than 40 minutes and all are most welcome.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 AT 5 PM



THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, December 28

8:15 AM Mass
 7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul, Commons
 ***Gym Floor Waxing

Tuesday, December 29

8:15 AM Mass
 8:45 AM Prayer/Share, Parish Library
 ***Gym Floor Waxing

Wednesday, December 30

8:15 AM Mass

Thursday, December 31

7:00 PM Mass, Vigil -Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 AM Mass

Saturday, January 2

3:30-5 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
 5:30 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 3 The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30, 9:30, 11:45 AM Mass
Distribution of Blessed Chalk

No Weekly PREP today

5:00 PM Vespers



**PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
 DEC. 31—JAN 3.**

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 28 - Feast of Holy Innocents

8:15AM Rosemarie Buszkiewicz

Tuesday, December 29 - Saint Thomas Becket

8:15AM Yolanda & Anthony Tripepi - *The Tripepi Family*

Wednesday, December 30 - Sixth Day of Christmas

8:15AM William Hauguel - *Beverly Hauguel*

Thursday, December 31 - Saint Sylvester / Vigil, Solemnity of Mary

8:15 AM Irene Janiszewski - *Mickey & Dick Jaworski*
 7:00 PM Leonard Grecco - *John & Debra Grecco*

Friday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 AM Bernard Thorsen - *Mary Thorsen*

Saturday, January 2 - Vigil, Epiphany of the Lord

5:30PM Ed & Clemie Wrobel - *Don & MaryAnn Riffel*

Sunday, January 3 - Epiphany of the Lord

7:30AM Parish Community
 9:30AM Irene G. Horvath - *Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kluszynski*
 11:45AM Intentions of Nicole Rogers - *Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wood*

Bulletin— “Sponsor of the Week”

Please Patronize Our Sponsors...They help make this bulletin possible. Let them know you heard about them here!!

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PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:.....	Laurie Haverty	255-9674
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PRAYER LINE:.....	Irene McNerny	255-9353
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