

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

- *8:00 a.m. Isabel Vitale
- VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS**
- 4:00 p.m. Liv. & Dec. Malcolm Families
- 6:00 p.m. Harry Pulver
- 11:00 p.m. Phillips/Waikel Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 9:00 a.m. Mary McCarthy
- 11:00 a.m. For The Parish

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

- *8:00 a.m. Jerry Russo

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

- *6:30 a.m. Harry Lambert
- *8:00 a.m. Liv. & Dec. Niederholtmeyer/Klaffke Families

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

- *8:00 a.m. Mildred Phillips
- *5:30 p.m. Anthony Barile

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

- 8:00 a.m. Thomas Kinniry
- 5:00 p.m. David Cox

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

- 7:15 a.m. Margaret & Martin Braun
- 9:00 a.m. Christine Ellert
- 11:00 a.m. Blanchard Savio
- 6:00 p.m. For The Parish (LifeTeen Mass)

*CHAPEL



A Child is Born!

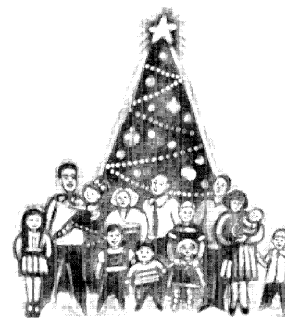
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.
 Our Mass at Midnight: 11:00 p.m.
(note time change for this year)
 Christmas Day: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.



FROM THE PASTOR:

We have journeyed together through Advent in preparation for Christmas, which is near. May God be with us now and forever. On behalf of the parish staff, I wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas.
 Fr. John



LIGHT OF GENEROSITY SHINES FROM ST. VINCENT'S GIVING TREE

A genuine THANK YOU is extended to everyone that purchased gifts for the Giving Tree! Our biggest year to date – 1000 gifts were distributed throughout the Fort Wayne area! Through Catholic Charities, St. Vincent's helped 54 refugee families begin to establish a household. Each man at the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission received two specifically requested gifts – 1 want and 1 need. We adopted 4 young families through Whittington Homes & Services and furnished each of the 20 families with a new set of bath towels. We provided needed items to the YWCA Domestic Violence Program. Nearly 100 gifts were given to SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect) to take to their clients on home visits and distribute as needed. The Christ Child Society, an organization that gives layettes to needy babies going home from the hospital and "My Stuff Bags" to children removed from their homes, received supplies to work with. The residents at University Park Nursing Home and Kingston Care Center each received a gift. Matthew 25 received a stock of hats, scarves, and mittens to give to patients in need of a little warmth. St. Vincent's parishioners continue to share Jesus' love throughout the city. Rest assured your big or small gift made someone's Christmas much brighter.

SERVERS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 29th

- 8:00 a.m. John Grashoff, Natalie Fawcett
- 5:00 p.m. Mike Widner, James Thompson
Brian Key, Allison Heffner

Sunday, December 30th

- 7:15 a.m. Crista Romano, Marissa Freson
Zach Meyer, Eirka Roy
- 9:00 a.m. Ben Schuerman, Bradley Frane
Candace Frane, Scott Nill
- 11:00 a.m. Samantha DePrez, Mark DePrez
Tessa Moeller, Nate James

THERE WILL BE NO NURSERY ON DEC. 30TH.



NEED THAT LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT?

Tom Didier, Tony and Marie Andorfer, and Pam Siela have made a Christmas CD. The CD's are available for purchase this week. Please call the church office or SCRIP program for information – 489-3537.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please be advised that any articles for publication in the parish bulletin for the weekend of Jan. 5th need to be in by 12:00 noon Thursday, Dec. 27th.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Once again we are offering you the opportunity to donate Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one. The suggested donation is \$10 a plant. We will remember the deceased at our Christmas Masses. Place the money or check in an envelope along with the form below:



(Please print)

Name of Loved One: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____ Donation: \$ _____

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In this bulletin, you will find our parish's annual financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. Our fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. Although these statements are designed to be self-explanatory, we want to highlight several items.

- Parish Income was higher than budgeted income.
- Parish Expenses also were slightly higher than budgeted expenses.
- Overall income was greater than expenses and this overage is being used for our Building Project.
- The Parish committed \$284,417 to our pastoral ministry, youth ministry and other programs, including religious education.
- Three percent of our collections is used for Project Solidarity for the poor and other outreach programs.
- Our loan from the diocese for our Building Project is \$1,647,524.
- We are just finishing our 3rd year of pledges; a number of pledges extend into year 4 and 5. These funds as well as parish net income will be used to reduce the debt.
- There are several large expense items we need to address:
 - There will be substantial increase in teachers' salaries.
 - Due to the expansion of our facility, we are experiencing increased utility and maintenance costs.
 - We are replacing the roof on the Spiritual Center and Rectory, purchasing bleachers for the Activity Center, and some school improvements.

We sincerely thank you for your financial support of our parish.
 The St. Vincent de Paul Finance Committee

Finance Committee



Report

CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP

"I cleaned my room!" Evan W.
"I prayed for my family. Help my mom clean the house." Emily T.
"I prayed for the sick." Jon E.

Meetings of the Week

ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT – Wednesday, Dec. 26th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

ROSARY SOCIETY SOCIAL PLANNED

The next Rosary Society meeting is scheduled for January 7th. We are going to the Texas Roadhouse. We NEED reservations by January 5th. Please call early if possible: Theresa Hughes 484-7014 or Jane Meyers 489-6073. We will eat at 6:00 p.m.

PARISH MISSION UPDATE

Thank you to the St. Vincent parishioners who graciously volunteered to help with the Parish Mission in February 2002. Those who have already signed up will be contacted after January 1, 2002, with more information and details. Volunteers are still needed and welcomed. If you would like to be a part of this exciting Parish Mission, please contact Keith or Sheila Burns at 637-7361.

DIVORCED/SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP

We will not be meeting again until JANUARY 10, 2002. Watch the bulletin for details. The Core Team wishes you a blessed Christmas.

ATTENTION: PARTICIPANTS OF WEEKLY DAY OF ADORATION

If you are not able to make your assigned hour of adoration, it is your responsibility to find a substitute.

There will be adoration on Wednesday, December 26th.

On Wednesday's, our parish is privileged to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for the day until 4 p.m. in the Reservation Chapel. We are required to have at least two people praying as long as the Sacrament is on the altar for this type of adoration. Please contact Mary Ann Brown at 489-4823 if you would like to do this and be scheduled for a specific hour. Drop-ins are welcome.

RCIA

RCIA will not be meeting until their Epiphany Party on January 8, 2002. Keep all of our Candidates and Catechumens in your prayers.

Do you know someone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, its teachings and traditions? The RCIA is an ongoing process. Call the church office for more information.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH SIGN UP

Now is the time to take advantage of the opportunity to renew or enhance your relationship with God by attending a Christ Renews His Parish weekend. The Men's weekend is Feb. 16-17, 2002, and the Women's weekend is March 2-3, 2002. Listen to your heart. Christ could be calling you for a chance to revitalize your faith, prayers, reflection, and fellowship. Men can call Andy Tomatore at 637-8082 and women can call Deb Fosnaugh at 489-0811.



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Attendance at two Baptismal Preparation Sessions is required before your child is baptized. They are Session I and Session II. You may attend Session II before Session I, if necessary. Each session will begin at 7:00 p.m. **AND WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW CHURCH CONFERENCE ROOM.** It is recommended that you attend before the birth of your child so that there will be no delay in setting a date for the baptism once the baby is born. Godparents, too, are welcome. Please call the church office to register for your sessions.

Session I Session II
Jan. 10 Jan. 17
Jan. 24

PRESCHOOL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will not be any preschool classes on Sunday, December 23rd or December 30th. Classes will resume Sunday, January 6th. The Religious Education office wishes you happy holidays and God's blessings to you and your family.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REMINDER

There will not be any Religious Education Classes on Wednesday, December 26th or January 2nd. Classes will resume Wednesday, January 9th. The Religious Education office wishes you happy holidays and God's blessings to you and your family.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE PARENTS:

Your candidate should have received a letter last week asking them to decide on which day they wanted to attend the retreat. I need those forms turned in as soon as possible, so they can get their choice.

If you did not receive a form, please call the Religious Education office at 489-3537 Ext. 235.



SPRING SPORTS COACHES WANTED

If you are interested in coaching St. Vincent's boys or girls spring athletic teams (track, soccer, softball), please contact Greg Eifert at 483-1961.

BASKETBALL CAMP BEING OFFERED

Bishop Dwenger High School will again be sponsoring the Saint's Basketball School for students in grades K-8. The five Saturday series will be held on January 12, 19, 26 and February 9, 16. Grades K-3 will meet from 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.; Grades 4 – 8 will meet from 10:30 – 12:00 noon. Instructors are Dave Scudder, Girls' Basketball Coach and Matt Kostoff, Boy's Basketball Coach. Cost of the 5-day series is \$40.00. Each attendee will receive a T-shirt. Checks should be made payable to Dave Scudder and returned to Bishop Dwenger High School. Registration is also available at the door.

BOX TOPS/CAMPBELL'S SOUPLABELS

We will begin collecting Box Top for Education logos. All you need to do is clip the Box Top logos from participating General Mills and Betty Crocker products. Our school gets 10 cents for each Box Top collected. This year, we are raising money towards our Strategic Plan Fund. The more we collect, the more we earn.

We will also collect Campbell's soup labels. This will allow us to pick various merchandise from the Campbell's catalog.

We will have a collection box at the west entrance of the Gathering Area. Thank you for supporting our school. For more information or questions, call Ann Barbieri at 482-3735 or Vicki Yoder at 637-4113.

MEIJER RECEIPTS

Please save your Meijer receipts dated September 10, 2001 through December 31, 2001. Turn them in to the school kitchen.

SCRIP SALES IN THE CHURCH

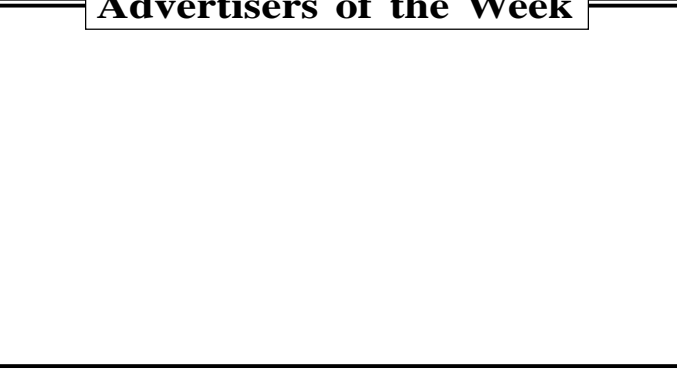
We offer a variety of restaurant, grocery, gasoline and retail merchants. Proceeds benefit not only the St. Vincent's HASA, but now a portion of the profit may be accumulated toward a family's tuition. Please refer to the T.I.P. Procedure available at the Scrip table. Support from the parish community is very much appreciated.

Questions or arrangements can be coordinated by calling Julia Thill at 489-7064.

ROSARY RECITED WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS

Please join us before the 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Mass weekdays and the 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning for recitation of the Holy Rosary. Rosary will commence twenty minutes before Mass. Hope to see you!!
Saturday Rosary Group

Advertisers of the Week



Please patronize the companies that support our bulletin.

FR. MARK'S CORNER

For great and reliable Catholic news from the Vatican and from around the world, I recommend subscribing online to the Zenit news service. You can connect at www.zenit.org/english/subscribe.html

From their website they describe themselves as follows:

ZENIT is an International News Agency.

- Our mission is to provide objective and professional coverage of events, documents, and issues emanating from or concerning the Catholic Church for a worldwide audience, especially the media.
- Our team consists of independent, professional journalists, translators and information staff who bring you issues and events as they occur. ZENIT's articles are already being reproduced in hundreds of publications throughout the world, as well as numerous radio and TV stations who use our daily and weekly news on a regular basis.

Its cover includes:

- Activities of John Paul II: travels, documents, audiences with heads of state and prominent figures in the social, cultural and religious world
- Life at the Vatican: diplomatic activity, humanitarian involvement, cultural life, profiles of the leaders of the Catholic Church
- Interviews with the men and women of the Church and with personalities from the world of politics, culture and entertainment, who respond to questions of religious interest

Upon subscribing you will receive two e-mails per day with Catholic news. This is a free service and you will receive no solicitation to purchase anything other than occasional requests for a donation to the news service itself. I have subscribed to this for over a year and have found it to be a great help in keeping up with Catholic news.

MAYBE YOU'VE NOTICED, MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T

The Family Life Ministry of St. Vincent's has built a container to hold and collect 1 million pennies. We've placed it in the west wing of the Gathering Space next to the doors of the church office. The children of St. Vincent's School have been bringing their pennies to the children's All Mass during the week and pouring them into the container and watching it grow. With the million pennies, The Family Life Ministry will purchase a statue of the Holy Family to be placed in the church. So, save your pennies throughout the week and bring them by the container. We'll watch the pennies grow in number and the end result will be a beautiful statue of the Holy Family for our church.

GIFT BEARING MINISTRY

We would like all parishioners to have the opportunity to carry the gifts of bread and wine to the altar during the part of the Mass called the "Presentation of the Gifts."

Please consider participating as a GIFT BEARER at our Sunday Masses. All families, or groups of at least four individuals, are invited to present the gifts. It's easy. Before Mass, just pick up the "Last Supper" plaque from the gift table located in front of the Baptismal Font and take it to your pew. This is a great way to mark a special date such as an anniversary or birthday.

As representatives of the church community, we ask that appropriate attire be worn when you plan to serve as Gift Bearers.

Hint: Early arrival could assure your family's or group's turn at this ministry and also a pew in the center aisle. If you have any questions, please call Barb Kasting at 338-0314.

HAVE A CART SPARE?

Donate your car, truck or van to Saint Vincent de Paul Store before December 31st for your tax credit. Call 1-888-387-7837 for pick up.



LIFE TEEN REFLECTION

An issue has come up several times lately that I think needs addressed. Freshmen in high school and college seem to be struggling with it, as I'm sure many of you are...that is drinking. We did a Life Night on it recently and I will take the same approach here. Alcohol is not bad. There is nothing wrong with someone who is of legal drinking age to have a casual drink. It is a sin for anyone to over indulge in alcohol. As Christians we are called to be Christ to the world. We don't know when we might be needed to witness for Jesus, and if we are impaired, we are not ready. For teens, however, consuming any amount of alcohol is wrong. First of all, it is against the law. Second, it impairs judgment and often leads to other sin: destructive behavior, lying, sex, and other drugs. I understand the pressure to fit in and be "cool." But I also know that God created each of us for a purpose and He wants us to look to Him for approval rather than other people. Pray for the desire, courage and grace to not drink. Then be ready to witness, for your choice shows you are serving the Lord. Cindy



YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

- Dec. 23 No Life Night
- Dec. 25 Emmanuel! God is with us.
- Dec. 26 Ministry Hour at 7:15 p.m
- Dec. 27 Pray at the abortion clinic
- Dec. 30 Core Social
- Jan. 3 Alumni Mass and Breakfast

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2002

If you plan to go to Toronto to see the Holy Father July 23-28, we need your commitment. Registration forms will be available next Sunday. Space is limited and will fill up fast.

YOU ARE INVITED, TOO!

For those of you out of high school and under 40, our Bishops invite you to join the diocesan pilgrimage to Toronto. You must register by Jan. 15. Call Sr. Gloria at 483-3661 or see Cindy for details.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ For information about St. Vincent's Youth Ministry, ★
 ★ contact Cindy Black at 489-3537 Ext. 228 or ★
 ★ e-mail cindyblack@home.com. ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TUITION ASSISTANCE ENVELOPES

When you use your Tuition Assistance envelope found in the monthly packet of collection envelopes, you help provide a Catholic school education for children whose parents need financial help. Tuition for one child in our grade school is \$1,356.00; for two children, \$2,034.00; and for three or more, \$2,712.00. Thus far this year, we are giving \$24,249.00 in financial assistance. Thank you very much for supporting our parish grade school.

MISSION HOUSE SUNDAY (MISS VIRGINIA)



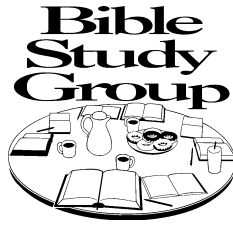
Please remember Mission House's ministry to the needy of the inner city next Sunday, December 30. Bags of food or paper products may be left in the gathering space of the new church. Whatever is collected is taken to Mission House that very day, so please refrain from bringing items through the week.

ST. CHARLES SINGLE ADULT VOLLEYBALL

Join us for a lot of fun (and a little exercise!) on Sunday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Hession Center Gymnasium. All single adults, 21 yrs. and older are welcome! We play approximately 3 out of 4 Sundays each month. We take one Sunday off for other activities (and to open the gym time to other parish groups). Ideas for activities on the off Sunday or other times are welcomed. NOTE: Please bring a pair of gym shoes, which have NOT been worn outside, for use during volleyball in the Hession Center gym. Your cooperation is appreciated, and saves the parish the expense of more frequent resurfacing of the gym floor. Thank you! Future volleyball dates are: Dec. 16, 2001 and January 6, 13, and 20, 2002.

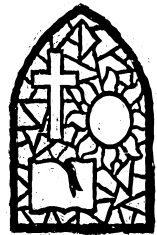
WINGSREGISTRATION

WINGS, a Bible study/faith-sharing group for women of our parish, will be starting a new session starting January 9, 2002. The book we will study is "Seventeen Steps to Heaven - A Catholic Guide to Salvation" by Leo J. Trese. Please call Kathy Coffin at 489-9720 or Sarah Garrison at 637-1409 for more information.



ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

The Accessibility Committee has been involved in various stages of the building and renovation of our parish. As a committee, we have faithfully pursued our call to provide fullness of parish life for all people with disabilities. The committee invites you to offer suggestions on further improvements that can be made to meet your needs. Please contact committee chairpersons, Kris Gill 489-3178 or Jennie Weillbaker 497-8212.



STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

As you enter our church and look to the right, you see three beautiful stained glass windows. These were installed as part of our building project. Now we need to add additional windows at a cost of \$7,000 per window. If you would like to purchase a window, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please call Fr. John at the church office. The beauty of the church will be greatly enhanced once all are in place.

YOUR GENEROSITY A BLESSING TO FRANCISCAN CENTER

Thank you to all of St. Vincent's Parish who have been so extremely generous with donations of food, paper products, clothing and toys over the past several months in support of the Franciscan Center, Inc. Your generosity has been incredible, and you are a true blessing to all of us. Your gifts and donations have made a big impact on a lot of people's lives in the Fort Wayne area. We could not function as well as we do without your support. Thank you to everyone for your support, and may God bless you today and always.

Sincerely, Keith M. Burns, Executive Director

FRANCISCAN CENTER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Franciscan Center is seriously in need of the following paper products to maintain our daily operation. If you can help, please drop off the items at the center.

- Paper Grocery Bags
- Sandwich Bags
- Paper Lunch Bags
- Plastic Handled Grocery Bags
- Paper Napkins

The Franciscan Center is located at 4643 Gaywood Drive, Fort Wayne (the old Sacred Heart Catholic School). Use front center door Monday - Thursday 8:00 to 4:00 p.m. and back door farthest from church on Saturday 7:30 to 10:00 a.m.

****NOTE: ANY OF THESE ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE.**

Did I remember to take the price tag off my gift?



Julie

TOO MANY COOKIES? TOO MUCH CANDY?

The Ladies of St. Vincent's request any leftover Christmas Goodies for their Byron Health Center Christmas party on January 2nd. Bring to church office or call and we will pick up - Mary Anne Melvin 489-3470; Sally Stone 489-9294; Irene Cowan 489-9581; Maurine Gensheimer 489-8397.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold Street, will hold its annual Christmas Concert Sunday, December 30th, at 7:00 p.m. The vocal choir, children's and adult's handbell choirs, congregation, and selected soloists will perform music of the season. Admission is free and all are invited.



CHRISTMAS TV MASS CONGREGATION NEEDED

On Christmas morning, Bishop John D'Arcy will celebrate Christmas morning Mass at 10:30 a.m. at the chapel located in Trinity Hall at the University of Saint Francis, 2701 Spring St. in Fort Wayne. The TV Mass will be broadcast live on WKJG-TV, Ch. 33. People are needed to attend the TV Mass and serve as the congregation. Please plan to arrive at the Saint Francis Chapel by 10:15 a.m. Your willingness to give of yourself for a half hour can help those confined at home or in nursing homes celebrate Mass on Christmas morning. For additional information, please contact the Catholic Communications Office at 744-0012.

BRING IN THE NEW YEAR AT ST. JOSEPH HESSEN CASSEL

A New Year's Eve Round and Square Dance, with music by "Breakaway" will be held from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. in the St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Contant Activity Center, 11521 Old U.S. Hwy 27, south of the 469 bypass. \$45/couple, \$22.50/single, includes hot buffet, beer & party favors. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. For info/reservations, call Mike Smith at 447-7510. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #12379.



Snow Shovelirtg

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SNOW REMOVAL!!!

The K of C is again this winter offering snow removal to those in need of this service (elderly, disabled or handicapped). Please contact Jim Cox II at 492-7705 to get on the list. Please call before the snow arrives!

MEN WANTED

We want to issue an invitation to all eligible men of the parish to join the Knights of Columbus - St. Vincent's Council. The Knights is a service organization of Catholic men which is involved in both our church and our community by helping the less fortunate, supporting our youth programs, our seminarians, and the Right to Life effort. Knights work as volunteers when needed at St. Vincent's and on projects within our community. In addition, we relax and enjoy each other and ourselves at dances, hayrides, dinner theater and other such social events.

You can be as active in the Knights of Columbus as your time allows. You might choose to be an officer in our organization or limit your participation to flipping an occasional pancake at one of our Sunday parish breakfasts.

If you want to join us or want more information first, please call Ray Ohlman, membership director, at 637-5377. We look forward to welcoming you to our council.

KOF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE

These are Blood Drive dates through June 2002:

Saturdays, March 16 and June 1, 2002

To schedule an appointment, call Bruce Cadwell at 484-0078

CHILDCARE PROVIDER

Starting the first of the year, I will be providing childcare in my home for the second shift. For more information, call Julie at 489-0988.



Call to me, Angel Gabriel!

Dear Padre,

Does God Does God call me, like God called Mary? On these last days before Christmas, is it possible for the Angel Gabriel to speak to me as he did to Mary?

Waiting for a Personal Annunciation

Dear Waiting,

Perhaps God has already spoken to you! In the great stories of calls in Scripture (those of Moses, Samuel, Mary), God does not seem to care about age (Moses was quite old, Samuel was very young, and Mary was only a teenager); God does not care about gender, race, talents, poverty or wealth, strengths or weaknesses. God calls each of us because we are God's daughters and sons. God's call is personal (to you and no other!), and this call is to always be Christian and serve the Lord in some unique manner. Most often the call will not be dramatic, like it was for Moses; more likely, your call will be quiet and personal. Remember what God said: "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Ps 46:10).

In these hectic days before Christmas, find a peaceful place and a quiet time. Be still and say to God, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Sm 3:9). In this quiet place, God will reveal your call to you again, a call that was present long before your birth.

Our vocation in life is the place where God has already spoken to us. We are planted in friendships, relationships, marriages, jobs, families, a community, and a nation. In each of these places, we listen to hear what spiritual focus God is calling forth from us. Then, like Mary, we say "Yes!" We reach into the most generous part of our spirit and proclaim "Yes" to even the most difficult, mundane, or boring aspects of our vocation. It is here that the call of Gabriel to Mary, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you" (Lk 1:28) becomes the call of Gabriel to us.

The Padre
Rev. Paul J. Coury, C.Ss.R.