

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, JUNE 24TH

- *6:30 a.m. Howard & Helen Ryan
- *8:00 a.m. Corbin & Mary Berkshire (25th anniv.)

TUESDAY, JUNE 25TH

- *6:30 a.m. Vernon Wolf
- *8:00 a.m. Irma Heidenrich

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH

- *6:30 a.m. Oscar Hoffman
- *8:00 a.m. Deceased Members Martin/Amick Families

THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH

- *8:00 a.m. Scott Sonnek

FRIDAY, JUNE 28TH

- *8:00 a.m. Robert Mosshammer

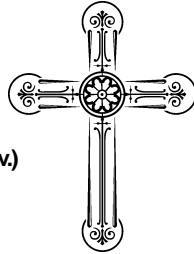
SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH

- 8:00 a.m. Robert Wilch
- 5:00 p.m. Int. Michael & Jean Stock (50th anniv.)

SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH

- 7:15 a.m. Special Int. Nielson Family
- 9:00 a.m. Anna Kintz
- 11:00 a.m. Doris A. Poiry
- 6:00 p.m. For The Parish (Life Teen Mass)

*CHAPEL



HOURS FOR BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

Please note that the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be open for adoration between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. daily.

SERVERS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 29

- 8:00 a.m. Ben Schuerman, Adrienne Witzigreuter
- 5:00 p.m. Jacob Kaiser, Rachel Kaiser
Pat Burns, Brian Burns

Sunday, June 30

- 7:15 a.m. Ben Royal, Emily Royal
John Grashoff, Jeremy Lill
- 9:00 a.m. Bradley Frane, Candice Frane
Jackie Ehlerding, Nick Ehlerding
- 11:00 a.m. Mike Tippmann, David Elden
Reid Faylor, Felicia Jones

NURSERY - June 30

- 9:00 a.m. Smith

WEDDING BANNIS

- III Matthew Lindley and Rachel Brockhoff
- III Dennis Wright and Susan Weisenauer
- II Matthew Grashoff and Stacey Smith
- I Michael Johnson and Andrea Henry



SUNDAY SUMMER ATTIRE

With the warm weather upon us, we tend to dress more casually. We need to be reminded that proper and modest attire should be worn at Sunday Mass during the summer months. When we gather as members of the Body of Christ to worship the Lord, we should dress for the occasion. Our attire is a reflection of our interior disposition.

DIVORCED/SEPARATED CATHOLICS

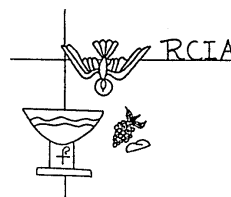
Come join us in the Spiritual Center at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 27. We'll be having a potluck! Ham, buns, beverages will be provided. We ask that you bring vegetable, salad or dessert. For more info, please call the church office.



PETER'S PENCE 2002 COLLECTION

FOR THE WORKS OF THE HOLY FATHER

Next week our parish will participate in the Peter's Pence Collection for the Works of the Holy Father. This collection enables the Holy Father to respond to requests for emergency funds from the most disadvantaged throughout the world. This special appeal is an opportunity to demonstrate justice and kindness to our brothers and sisters in need. Please pray for the Holy Father's works and contribute generously to the appeal. See attached letter from Bishop D'Arcy concerning this collection.



RCIA

During the coming weeks, you'll be reading about RCIA, the people involved in it, and how you can help. It is important that anyone interested in coming into the church, not wait until fall to inquire. RCIA is an ongoing process and we already have 12 people in the Inquiry for this coming fall.

For more information, please call the church office at 489-3537 and ask for Judy Mockenhaupt.

RCIA FOR CHILDREN

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Children is a process of initiation into the Catholic Church for the children over the age of seven, not baptized as infants, or baptized in another denomination, or baptized but have not been catechized in the Catholic Church.

The new session will be starting in September. Please call the church office for more information.

We are also looking for people that are interested in being sponsors for the children this fall. This is a wonderful ministry that benefits the entire family as they make this journey together into the Catholic faith. Please call Lisa Harris at the church office for more information.

PROJECT 25 COLLECTION - NEXT WEEKEND

The last Sunday of each month, at all the Masses, boxes are placed near the columns in the church's gathering space to allow our parishioners to contribute to this project.

This project was initiated several years ago to aid individuals who were laid off when International Harvester closed its Fort Wayne assembly plant. These contributions are now split evenly between our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society and Matthew 25, the medical and dental facility for citizens of Fort Wayne who do not have health insurance and are not eligible for Medicaid.

These are both very worthy organizations and we ask that you be as generous as you can each month. The current need is more pronounced now than it has been these past few years. Thank you.

INNER CITY HOPE MISSION SUNDAY (MISS VIRGINIA)

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

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. in the East Meeting 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
June 27
NO SESSIONS IN JULY
August 8
August 22

- Session II
August 29

SAINT VINCENT'S MAY 2002 COLLECTIONS

FOUR WEEKS

Total Collection in Envelopes	\$ 161,185
Total Collection Loose	7,659
	\$ 168,844
Average Weekly Collection	\$ 42,211
Project Solidarity for May	\$ 5,129



CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP

"Playing with my little sister." Derek G.
 "Helped my mom work and set up the book fair." Grant
 "Playing with my sister." Marie B.
 "I said sorry." Caleb K.

Meetings of the Week

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – Monday, June 24th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
 SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST – Tuesday, June 25th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Reservation Chapel
 ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT – Wednesday, June 26th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Reservation Chapel
 BAPTISMAL PREPARATION I – Thursday, June 27th, at 7:00 p.m. in the East Room
 DIVORCED/SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP – Thursday, June 27th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center

EXPERIENCE HIS LIVING PRESENCE

In adoration we express our dependence on God and our gratitude for all that His love has provided for our salvation, especially for the gift of His living presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

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.

MEN'S TEAM 32 CHRIST

RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKEND - SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, 2002

Are you looking for a way to revitalize your faith and make new friends? Sign up now for the next Men's Christ Renews His Parish Weekend on September 7 & 8, 2002. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship. Contact Chuck Hollis at 471-9442.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKEND SIGN UP

Listen to your heart, and take advantage of this opportunity to renew or enhance your relationship with God by attending a Christ Renews His Parish weekend. The women's weekend is September 21 and 22. Christ could be calling you for a chance to enrich your spiritual life with fellowship, scripture and prayer. Please call Carol Tarbell at 489-9649 to sign up.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

If you are interested in donating one of the eighteen lower windows in the ambulatory of the nave of the church, the cost is \$7,000. These attractive stained glass windows enhance the beauty of the church, and it will be wonderful to have them all in place. We are establishing a stained glass window fund for smaller donations.



Eventually we will be placing stained glass in the upper windows of the nave; this is necessary to reduce glare. The windows in the great dome will not be done in stained glass but will remain as they are.

ST. VINCENT EMPLOYERS-UNEMPLOYED LINK

Realizing that many people in our parish and area have lost their jobs and are looking, we want to help. We are asking you as owners and managers of businesses in the area to

— Send by TUESDAY MORNING, IN WRITING OR E-MAIL (stvincentchurch@hotmail.com)

1. An open position you are aware of
 2. The name of the company and address
 3. The contact person and how to reach him or her
- God is in every part of our journey!

OPEN POSITIONS AT DOMETIC CORP.

— Supplier Quality Engineer – LaGrange, Indiana, Dometic Corp. Contact Bryce Lemon at (260) 463-7661
 — Operations Manager – Juarez, Mexico, Dometic Corp. Contact John Martino at (260) 602-3291
 Any questions regarding either position, call (260) 602-3291.

OPENINGS-ELECTRICAL, SOFTWARE & MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Tokheim Corporation has immediate openings for experienced electrical, software and mechanical engineers. Tokheim is a manufacturer of retail petroleum dispensers (gas pumps).

Mailing address: Tokheim Corporation
 P. O. Box 360
 Fort Wayne, IN 46801.
 Contact: Gena Pressley at (260) 470-4872 or gena.pressley@tokheim.com

HELP WANTED AT FRANCISCAN CENTER

The Franciscan Center, Inc. is looking for a person to take over the Food Pantry and Farm Wagon. Duties include but not limited to: Loading/Unloading trucks/Stocking shelves/Food distribution/Volunteer coordination/Ordering food items/Cleaning/Etc.

The Franciscan Center is a not-for-profit food and clothing bank here to serve those less fortunate in our community.

Pay is \$9.00 per hour (No Benefits included with position). Hours are (approx. 32 hrs per week): Mon – Thurs 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sat 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Must be able to lift

up to 70# on a regular basis. For more information, please call Keith Burns at (260) 744-3977.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND

We are reinstating the Capital Improvement envelope in the monthly packet of the Sunday collection envelopes. We find this necessary because we need to begin to accumulate funds to help us pay for the following: a new school roof, Spiritual Center and rectory roof, organ repair and school boiler replacement. Some parishioners, having completed their building campaign pledge, will see this as an opportunity to continue giving in support of needed improvements for the maintenance and upkeep of the parish plant.

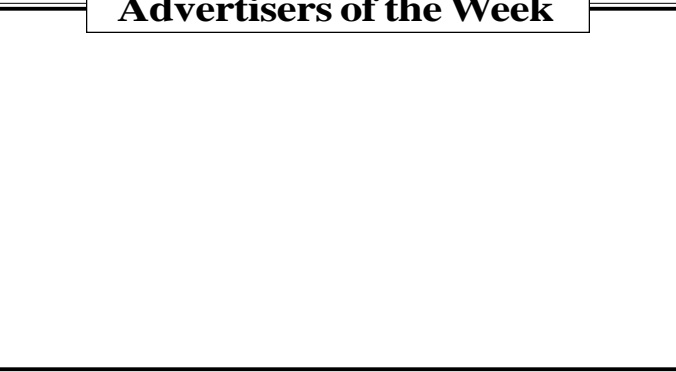
TRAINING SESSIONS FOR FAITH BASED INITIATIVE

The training is completed in one session. When taking a client you will be coupled with a social worker who will manage the case. All training sessions will be at Lutheran Social Services located at 3326 S. Calhoun across from South Side High School. The sessions are from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and food will be supplied. Training sessions will be held July 2, August 5, and September 10.

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.

Advertisers of the Week



Please patronize the companies that support our bulletin.

LIFETEEN REFLECTION

Teens, have you seen the Life Teen web site? If so, have you since they updated and moved to www.LifeTeen.com? I encourage you to check it out. There are sections on various topics. I read an interesting article by Mary Beth Bonacci about the sitcom "Friends." You can put in prayer requests, read the daily readings, see what Matt Smith (from Real World notoriety) is up to, and get into "Teen Talk." I downloaded a really cool JPill wallpaper for my desktop. They have a contest called "Teen Trivia" that we should all try and see how we do. Let me know what you think. Here is a quote of the month I read there: "Humility is the only virtue no devil can imitate." – St. John Climacus. Ponder that one!
Cindy

Teen News



NEWS FROM THE 19-30'S GROUP

Do you know someone 19-30's looking for fun, faith and fellowship? There is a group that has formed at St. Vincent's with common goals of bettering the community through service and sharing our faith with people our own age.

This group already includes many members ranging in age from 22 to mid 30's. We are currently planning fun filled activities and service projects. We would love for new members to join us and share our faith.

For more information, please contact Nick Busch at 637-1980.

**YOUNG ADULTS
GROUP
SINGERS**

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

June 23 World Youth Day send off with Bishop D'Arcy
No Life Night
June 26 Ministry Hour, 7:15
June 27 Pray at abortion clinic
June 30 Life Night: Between Friends

THANK YOU

from Life Teen to Bruce Cadwell, the Knights of Columbus, and Jay Leonard for providing the tent for our Summer Spectacular.



BISHOP DWENGER AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WANT CANS

Bishop Dwenger High School's Habitat for Humanity chapter is joining with the local Habitat for Humanity group in collecting 5 million pop cans to raise funds for construction of a home in Fort Wayne. Cans may be

dropped off at the Bishop Dwenger parking lot just off Washington Center Road near Clinton on July 13 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

PRAY FOR OUR TEENS HEADED FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY



Please pray for the teen and young adult pilgrims from our diocese attending World Youth Day 2002:

"Loving and generous God, your love is everlasting and ever faithful. Be with our teens and young adults as they come together this week as pilgrims to be "Sent Forth" by Bishop D'Arcy from Camp Mack in Milford, Indiana to World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto. Enlighten them, renew them, challenge them, and help them to be true to what you call all of us to be. May your gifts shine through them in all that they say and do. All glory be yours, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen."

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 \$1,628.00; for two children, \$2,440.00; and for three or more, \$3,255.00. Thus far this year, we are giving \$20,650.00 in financial assistance. Thank you very much for supporting our parish grade school.



POSITIONS OPEN FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

There are teaching positions open for the 2002-2003 school year. We are looking for a 6th grade teacher with an emphasis on math and science; a part-time music teacher; and jr. high language. If you are interested in any of these positions, please call the school office at 489-3537.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

Bethel Preschool is now enrolling 3-5 year olds for fall classes. Bethel is a Christian preschool that has been loving Fort Wayne children for over 35 years. For more information, call 489-3651.

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.

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." 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. Hint: Early arrival could assure your family's or group's turn at this ministry and also a pew in the center aisle.

ST. ANNE'S SUNDAY EVENING LITURGY DISCONTINUED

Effective June 30, 2002, the Sunday evening liturgy for Young Adults at St. Anne's Home is being discontinued. Other area Masses on Sunday afternoon or evening are: 5:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

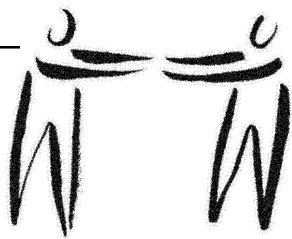
5:00 p.m.	St. Charles Borromeo Parish
5:00 p.m.	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
6:00 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Parish
7:00 p.m.	University of St. Francis (no Mass in June)
7:30 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GOLF OUTING

All CCHS graduates of the classes of 1955, '56, '57, '58 and '59 are invited to attend a scramble on September 27, 2002 at Cherry Hill Golf Club, 6615 Wheelock Road, Fort Wayne. The cost is \$55.00 per person which includes golf, cart, light lunch, beer and set-ups. Make checks payable to CCHS Golf Outing and send name, address, telephone and check to Rudy Jansen, 5456 Race Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247, (513) 574-8107. One check per foursome is preferable.

BISHOP DWENGER CLASS OF 1977 PLANNING 25TH REUNION

The Class of 1977 of Bishop Dwenger is celebrating their 25th anniversary on August 10, 2002. The reunion will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 12 midnight at Picassos at Market Place of Canterbury, 5655 Saint Joe Road. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Mail payments to: BDHS 1977 Reunion, 3218 Ponema Court, Fort Wayne, IN 46815. For additional information, contact Kevin Hartman (260) 486-6467 or BDHS1977REUNION@aol.com.



Reach out to those in need

THE ROSE HOME

The Rose Home is looking for persons who might offer time in one way or another, i.e. carpentry, painting, repair, teaching cooking, gardening, budgeting, balancing a checkbook, or any life skills that we all need to become successful in our world today. "Whatever you do to the least of these..." Please feel free, if you still wish to contribute time or material goods, to call me at 423-1547 or Barb Cox at 482-2500. Our target time for opening the home will be in February. So much has been done already, but there is also much to do. May God bless all of you for your generosity to the lowly ones of this world. Sincerely in Christ, Sister Rose Clare Ehrlich, CSA.

HELP NEEDED FOR ANNUAL CAMP-OUTING

The Shepherd's House is seeking donations. The Yearly Camp-Outing is planned – and this year both men from Shepherd's House and women from the Rose Home will take part. They would appreciate any donations – which would be used to purchase a huge tent for the women, ten sleeping bags for the women as well as for food and beverage. Your consideration of the ladies' needs is appreciated. Questions? Feel free to phone Barb Cox at 424-2500 or 482-2500.

YOUR HELP SOUGHT FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Catholic Charities sponsors refugees from Vietnam, Bosnia, Ukraine, Turkey, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma and Afghanistan. They receive refugee families, mostly all single mothers with several children. Upon notice of arrival, the resettlement process begins with arrangements for housing, with donated furnishings, vaccinations, medical follow-up, Social Security, Indiana I.D., food stamps, etc. Their needs are great. Please consider volunteering, donating furniture, transportation of furniture, transportation, mentoring, tutoring or simply being a friend. Stop in or call the Church Office for a full list of items to make the resettlement process for these refugees a welcoming situation. For more information, contact Heidi Boener, Resettlement Director, at 422-5625.

BUNK BEDS NEEDED FOR VETERANS

Blair Manor, a local veteran's transitional living facility, needs three new or used bunk beds for adults. Call Ann at 420-3169 asap.

FURNITURE NEEDED AT MUSTARD SEED FURNITURE BANK GIVES

Mustard Seed Furniture Bank of Northeastern Indiana is a non-profit, free furniture bank for the needy. If you have any well maintained furniture that you no longer need, the Mustard Seed Furniture Bank would like to have it to give to someone who needs it. All furniture is donated and given free of charge. For information or to schedule a pick up call (260) 471-5802.

SUNDAY VAN DRIVER NEEDED AT ST. MARY'S

Van driver needed Sunday mornings from 7:30 – 12:30 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fort Wayne. Must have good driving record and references. Call the church office at 424-8231.

FRANCISCAN CENTER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The Franciscan Center needs your help. Our supply levels have dropped dramatically, and we are requesting your help. We are in need of the following items:

- Sandwich sacks
- Snack size bags
- Gallon Size storage bags
- Brown paper grocery bags
- Cash Donations

You may drop these off at the center: 4643 Gaywood Drive on Mon-Thurs 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Thank you for your support and love of the needy of our great community.

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



Can you help me with my fear?

Dear Padre,

My coworker just died from breast cancer and I am afraid it could happen to me. Ever since what happened at the World Trade Towers last year, I have been afraid to fly. I keep reading about muggings and robberies in my own city, and I live alone and am afraid. Please help me not to be so afraid.

Afraid and Alone

Dear Afraid and Alone.

I am so sorry to hear about your coworker. I will remember her in my prayer. With all the advances in medicine, cancer is still a powerful enemy that strikes fear in everyone's life. The fears you describe are terrible things. The worst thing about those fears is the unknown; you never know when they will occur, and that nagging fear robs you of any peace in your life.

But fear also shuts our vision down and we don't see things as clearly as they are. I wonder if your coworker came to any peace in her struggle with cancer; sometimes great fears bring out great courage too. I believe that everything and everyone is in God's hands. Every breath we take is a gift from God. We are not alone in our fears, Jesus is very near and knows our fear from the inside out. If we concentrate on all that could happen, and none of it is any good, then we cannot take the time to watch all that is happening in our lives right now, some of which is wonderful. I look at all the gifts around me each day: life, reasonable health thus far, family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, God's grace - the list could go on and on. When we look at what we are receiving moment by moment, we don't have time to worry about what might come our way.

Pray for those who suffer unexpected tragedies, by all means, but also spend even more time thanking God for all the gifts you are aware of right now. It is the surest path I know to daily peace.

The Padre

Er. William J. Parker, C.Ss.R.



Who or what is the Holy Spirit?

Dear Padre,

I am invited to my nephew's confirmation. I bought him a religious card and put some money in it. I began to wonder about the confirmation ceremony, and realized that I knew very little about the Holy Spirit. Who or what is the Holy Spirit?

The Gift-Giver

Dear Gift-Giver,

Every Sunday at Mass, when we pray the Creed, we say: "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son." The third person of the Trinity is called the Holy Spirit.

The name "spirit" is a translation of the Hebrew word, "ruach," which means breath, air, or wind. When God created the world, God filled it with his own breath or spirit. God also breathed life in Adam, the first man (Gen 2:7).

The Holy Spirit is also called the "Paraclete." This is a Greek word meaning "one called in," an advocate, or one who pleads. The Holy Spirit is the one who strengthens us when we stand against evil, injustice, or unchristian attitudes. The Church has identified and recognized the Holy Spirit through symbols such as the water poured on our heads during baptism, the oil we are anointed with at confirmation, the fire which appeared over the heads of the apostles at Pentecost, and the dove which settled on Jesus at his baptism.

The Holy Spirit is also the giver of gifts. There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. There is wisdom, to recognize the things of God; understanding, to hear others with our heart; counsel, to advise others with wisdom; fortitude, to stand firm in the cause of virtue and truth; knowledge, to discern the difference between good and evil; piety, to faithfully practice our religion; and fear of the Lord, which inspires us with a respect for God.

In the spirit of Pentecost, let us renew our own commitment to live the gifts of the Spirit which we received at our confirmation.

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

GOOD NEWS

Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Hans Christoffersen

We're all familiar with the long-running TV program *Unsolved Mysteries*, hosted by Robert Stack in his long trench coat. The mysteries he brings before us are usually about murders and/or disappearances, and we're asked to look out for certain persons or clues that might lead to solving the mystery, a word we mostly use in connection with something secret, hidden, or unexplainable.

In today's reading from the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes about "the mystery of Christ." Obviously, he uses "mystery" in quite a different way than just mentioned. Elsewhere, he describes that, to him, "the mystery of Christ" refers to the whole of God's plan of salvation, which, once hidden for the ages, was now revealed to human beings in the person of Jesus Christ. The Christian mystery is that the incomprehensible has come close to us in our history. Not only that, an aspect that we may not find very unusual - but which was nothing short of shocking to Paul and his Jewish contemporaries - was that "the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and shares in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

This is not just theology - you and I live in this mystery! As members of the Church, we are part of a community incorporated into the history of salvation. Likewise, today's feast is not just a dramatic story of the adventures of three astrologers; it has to do with us, our story, our worship here this morning as well as in all of our lives. If the manifestation of Christ that Paul and Matthew talk about is to get hold of us, we can no longer look at others as strangers whom we need to be suspicious of or threatened by.

As believers, we live in mystery, but not an unsolved one, nor a nostalgic one. Given our human limitations, we do not comprehend it, but we experience awe and reverence, and we "see" in momentary glances that we live on the verge of the Church to come, whose shape is seen only darkly through a glass that is not always clear. This saving work of Christ is glimpsed in the sacraments we celebrate, in the healing words we hear or share with another, in the hopeful longing that keeps us reaching out for what is beyond us, yet still at the center of all our knowing and willing, and in trusting the future promised by God and belonging to God. God beckons us like a parent encourages a toddler to walk - teasingly receding, with hands outstretched, in order that the child may take yet another step before doubting what is going on and letting the force of gravity take over once again. In light of this beckoning, we might do well to consider ourselves spiritual beings on a human journey, rather than human beings on a spiritual journey.

How does the mystery manifest itself in your life?

GOOD NEWS

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3,5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

Hans Christoffersen

Do you ever think back to your time in grade school? As I get older, it seems that incidents and events from that time pop up in my mind more and more often. One of these is the countless times I'd raise my hand, "I know! I know!" only to discover I was totally wrong. Another memory sometimes follows this one, and that was when I'd be asked something and- without even realizing it - be right on.

This came to mind when reading today's gospel, where John the Baptist, whom Luke tells us was the cousin of Jesus, repeatedly says about Jesus, "I myself did not know him." That started me thinking of how we think we know something while, at other times, we actually know what we don't think we know.

There are different ways of knowing. Much of our knowledge about life and the world comes to us through our senses of sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. In this we are no different than the animals around us. On another level, we have intellectual knowledge which enables us to know on a level deeper than the most obvious, for example, the principles of mathematics, logic, history, etc. Beyond this, there is spiritual knowledge - a knowledge that we can't achieve on our own, since it is God's gift. This gift is what enables us to truly know ourselves. Saint Augustine, in his *Soliloquia*, wrote about this, "I desire to know God and the soul. Nothing besides? Nothing whatsoever." To do so, he went from the world of the senses to the things that are within, whereby he was aided toward the things that are above. Self-knowledge is an important element in knowing God.

Besides being steeped in the Jewish Scriptures, to be a prophet, John the Baptist had to know himself well. Yet he knew not the image of the Messiah Jesus conveyed. He had known Jesus from earlier in life. Beyond being cousins, many scholars indicate that Jesus might have followed John for a while. Yet, in spite of all this, it wasn't until John saw - perhaps more with spiritual knowledge than sensory knowledge - the Spirit descend from heaven and rest upon Jesus, that he discovered him whom he hadn't known: "I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

This testimony will impact you and me only if we let God's gift of knowledge act in us. "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor 12:3). It is the Spirit who enables us to know who Jesus is, and, in this, come to know ourselves.