



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

*6:30 a.m. Bart & Matilda Meier
8:00 a.m. Florence Wassenhove

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

*6:30 a.m. Ollie & Anna Ohlman
8:00 a.m. Gloria & C.K. Michelle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

*6:30 a.m. Int. of Kay Landry
8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Parsons

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

*6:30 a.m. William & Sarah Malone
8:00 a.m. Elizabeth & William Edsall ALL MASS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

8:00 a.m. Clifford Schlatter

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

8:00 a.m. Rita Frank
5:00 p.m. Thomas J. Kosorski

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

7:15 a.m. Elizabeth R. Edsall
9:00 a.m. Rita Helmsing
11:00 a.m. Robert Sullivan
6:00 p.m. For The Parish

*CHAPEL



FROM THE PASTOR

Sue Beard, of our parish, is organizing an effort to provide 200 complete Christmas dinners for families in need. These dinners will go to Miss Virginia's families, Matthew 25 families, Ft. Wayne Community Schools elementary case workers' families, and any other families truly in need. We have been asked to provide the turkeys, 200 of them. If you can donate a turkey, bring it next weekend before Mass. A truck (possibly two) will be parked near the church to receive the turkeys. It was Miss Virginia who started this Christmas project to help the poor, and Sue, who worked so closely with Miss Virginia, has chosen to continue this corporal work of mercy. Sue says that she is collecting the turkeys now because they are cheaper when purchased before Thanksgiving. We all enjoy a good Christmas dinner with our loved ones. May the Christ Child and our patron, St. Vincent de Paul, smile on us this Christmas for sharing with those who are less fortunate. Fr. John

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.

SERVERS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 23rd

8:00 a.m. Alexis Craghead, Joe Richardville
5:00 p.m. Ben Kartje, Rachel Yankowiak
Elizabeth Nicola, John Grashoff

Sunday, November 24th

7:15 a.m. David Huneck, Michael Kemper
Katie Schipkowski, Erica Norton
9:00 a.m. Ryan Nielson, Kristine Davis
Mike Thill, Philip Gase
11:00 a.m. Alyssa Heidenreich, Jenna Roy
Jessica Schenkel, Grace Morken

NURSERY - Nov. 24th

9:00 a.m. Ed & Tonya Busche

COFFEE AND DONUTS - Nov. 24th

9:00 a.m. Hinde, Divorced & Separated Group



WEDDING BANNES

II Andrew Hollingsworth and Rachel Freiburger
II Ryan Wilson and Katie McCracken

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' & SACRISTAN SCHEDULES

Attention Eucharistic Ministers and Sacristans: Please stop by the Ministry Sacristy and pick up your new schedule.

**USHERS SCHEDULE
FOR DECEMBER**



Saturday

5:00 p.m. Frank Raney, Tom Wood, Jay Leonard
Kevin Sorg, Dick Boggess, Rollie Clements

Sunday

7:15 a.m. Larry Franck, Ken Eubank
Keith Amstutz, Tom Jones
9:00 a.m. Jack Baumgartner, Marc Junk, Don Miller
Mark Stasell, Dennis Thelen
11:00 a.m. William Key, Roger Byers, Paul Moreau
Tom Osborn, Mike Mathews, Jesus Viduya



Reach out to those in need

MISS VIRGINIA MISSION SUNDAY

Please remember this ministry to the needy of the inner city next Sunday, November 24th. Bags of food or paper products may be left in the Gathering Space of the church. Whatever is collected is taken to Inner City Hope Mission House that very day, so please refrain from bringing items through the week.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

You will find our parish's annual financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002. We want to highlight several items for you as you review the statements:



On our Balance Sheet, you will notice:

- We have capitalized our construction program and started depreciation process for the new church and school projects.
- We have established a building pledge receivable for our 4th and 5th year pledges.
- You will notice that the loan to the Diocese is below a million dollars. We are making scheduled principal and interest payments of approx. \$50,000/month.

On our Income and Expense Statement you will notice:

- Through your blessed generosity the offertory collection was more than budget, this helped us pay down the loan to the Diocese.
- Church donations were received for stained glass window purchase, rectory roof and rectory refurbishing.
- Bishop's Appeal overage was used to purchase the school bleachers, new kitchen equipment, and new security door in the school.
- Other parish income includes our Capital Improvement Fund and miscellaneous income items.
- Church building expense was greater than last year because of depreciation expense and utility expense, although the utility expense came in under budget due to the mild winter.
- We have spent nearly \$280,000 this fiscal year in our youth ministry and outreach programs, which includes 3% of our offertory collections going to Project Solidarity.
- School income donations included those received from HASA and the Strategic Plan Fund.

We sincerely thank you for your past and continued generous support.
Sherry Miller, Business Administrator
and the St. Vincent de Paul Finance Committee



CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP

"I played with my little brother." Mike G.
 "I love God." Jake L.

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

- SESSION ON PRAYER – Monday, November 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – Monday, November 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
- BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Monday, November 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Teachers Lounge
- FINANCE COMMITTEE – Tuesday, November 19th, at 6:45 a.m. in the Church Conference Room
- THE WORD – TWO BY TWO – Tuesday, November 19th, at 8:30 a.m. in the East Meeting Room
- SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST – Tuesday, November 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Church
- RCIA – Tuesday, November 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center
- ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT – Wednesday, November 20th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Reservation Chapel
- WINGS – Wednesday, November 20th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Center
- ATHLETIC BOOSTER BOARD – Wednesday, November 20th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Teachers Lounge
- BEREAVEMENT SESSION – Wednesday, November 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
- CRHP CONTINUATION – Wednesday, November 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room
- MOTHERS GATHERED IN PRAYER – Thursday, November 21st, at 8:30 a.m. in the East Meeting Room
- WINGS TOO – Thursday, November 21st, at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Center
- BAPTISMAL PREPARATION I – Thursday, November 21st, at 7:00 p.m. in the East Meeting Room
- RCIC PARENT & SPONSOR MEETING – Thursday, November 21st, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room
- NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING – Saturday, November 23rd, at 8:30 a.m. in the East Meeting Room

FAMILY RETREAT DAY

Please come join us for a day of family fun and spirituality this Sunday, November 17, 2002 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. We will be focusing on Advent and prayer. The evening will culminate with a potluck dinner. We will provide the ham and you provide the "potluck" and a drink to share. (A-I salad; J-P veggie/potato; R-Z dessert). This is for school age children and their family. Hope to see you there!!



SESSION ON PRAYER OFFERED

Join us on Monday night, Nov. 18, at 7:00 p.m. for a deeper insight into prayer. Add to or draw from a pool of wisdom to enrich your spiritual life. The ninety-minute session will be held in the Spiritual Center. All are welcome.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is an ongoing process. The time involved differs with the baptized/unbaptized and the catechized and uncatechized. Each person's circumstance is different. If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, call the church office and ask for Judy. A brief interview will help determine where you are in the process.



ADVENT MATERIALS

Advent calendars, daily meditations, Sunday readings, family prayers and more will be available after Masses next weekend, November 23 and 24 and also November 30 and December 1. Look for the large selection in the Gathering Space. A suggested donation will be listed.

DIVORCED/SEPARATED DATE CHANGE

Note: The December meeting will be Thursday, December 29th. Details to follow.

NEW CD

"Have Faith: Classical, Traditional and Contemporary Praise Music" is currently on sale through SCRIP! This CD was recorded by Tony Anderfer, and features the talents of local musicians including the following St. Vincent parishioners: Barbara Alderfer, Jeanne Baker-Dick, Jamie Burnham, Kate Burnham, Joe Cochran, Scott Kruse, Kieth Litton, Mary Helen Oxley, Ryan Schipkowski, Pam Siela, Emilie Stanley, Sherri Stasell and Heather Strzelecki. The price of the CD is \$11. Profits will be put toward the organ rebuild fund.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

This weekend at all the Masses the Confirmation Commitment Ceremony will take place. Candidates and their sponsors or a substitute sponsor will be called forward for a brief ceremony. One requirement for these young people during this year is to complete five service projects for which they donate their time and talent to work for the benefit of others. Our eighth graders are involved in a wide variety of services for their families, the parish and the community. Please keep these Confirmation candidates in your prayers as they continue to prepare for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.



In sixth grade Religious Education, the catechists include Lori Catanzarite, Renee McKerr, Diana Chambers, and Denise Whonsetler. At this grade level students focus on Salvation History with an emphasis on Saints, the Old Testament, the Gospels and Jesus as our Savior.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Attendance at two Baptismal Preparation Sessions is required before your child is baptized. Each session will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the East Meeting Room. Please call the church office to register for your sessions.

Session I	Session II
November 21	
THERE ARE NO SESSIONS IN DECEMBER.	
January 9	January 16
January 23	

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

Nov. 17	No Life Night: Return from Retreat
Nov. 18	JHL, 7:00 at Church
Nov. 19	Mass and Breakfast, 6:30 a.m.
Nov. 20	Pray at Abortion Clinic, 7 a.m.
Nov. 24	Life Night: Come Again

JUNIOR HIGH LIFE

Our next JHL night is Monday, November 18th from 7 – 8:30 p.m. All 7th and 8th graders are invited to attend and learn how to "Love One Another". Drop off and pick up at the Gathering Space in the church.

COLLECTION FOR BABY/NEWBORN ITEMS

Bishop Dwenger's Pro-Life students, "Saints for Life", will be collecting baby items for the Crisis Pregnancy Center (Hope Center). A box will be placed near the west entrance of the gathering space from November 17th until December 1st for donations. Please drop them off before/after Mass or during the week, whatever is convenient for you. Items needed: New or gently used: baby clothes (infant to size 2), sleepers for newborns, snowsuits for newborns, coats, mittens, hats. New: diapers, sizes 3-6 (sizes 5-6 especially), baby wipes, lotion, powder, shampoo, soap, blankets, bottles and pacifiers.

DC DREAMERS 8TH GRADE BAKE SALE

Come get your Thanksgiving baked goods at the St. Vincent 8th grade bake sale. The bake sale will be on Sat. November 23rd after the 5 p.m. Mass and on Sunday, November 24th, after the 7:15, 9 and 11 a.m. Masses. All funds collected will help reduce the cost of the trip to Washington, D.C.

TURKEY BINGO! – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24TH

Doors to the parish hall open at 5:00 p.m. with calling starting at 6 p.m. Play bingo and win a turkey for your Thanksgiving Feast. Come out and support our athletic program! Sponsored by the Men's Club.



A Heavenly View

Dear Padre,

Little kids have such a strange view of heaven. In their minds, heaven is the place where you get everything you want. How are we to view heaven as adults?

Gazing Toward Paradise

Dear Gazing,

One can only hope that our view of heaven changes as we grow older, become more spiritually centered, and move closer to our own death and resurrection. The difficulty with imagining heaven is that we have no direct knowledge or experience of it. We do know that the life of heaven is a radically new and different kind of existence. Corinthians tells us: "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). We do know from Scripture that heaven is the dwelling place of God and of angels, and a place of eternal happiness for all who have been saved (Rv. 21:1,3-4). We also know that in heaven we will see God face to face, as God truly is (1 Jn 3:2). We know that heaven is fullness of life and love: life without illness, without strife, without death (Rv. 7:16-17), and love without limitation, imperfection, or ending.

Saint Augustine reminds us that whatever we find beautiful or desirable in this world is but a faint reflection of God. How many times in this life have you experienced moments and times of joy, happiness, and fulfillment? But these never last. They slowly dissipate. These are hints of the beauty and loveliness of God that can enable us to imagine what our happiness will be like when we are in the presence of God forever.

Here is a simple daily practice to help you center your thoughts on heaven. At the beginning of the day, commit yourself to noticing what makes you happy and joy-filled as you go through your day. At day's end remember those events, and then thank God for these little hints that remind you of the fullness of your eternal home yet to come in heaven.

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

GOOD NEWS

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Mc 7:1-2,9-14; 2 Thes 2:16-3:5; Lk 20:27-38

Hans Christoffersen

Years ago, I used to take communion to a woman, Anna, who was homebound. Feeble and advanced in years, she suffered from a variety of diseases, the combination of which eventually would lead to her death. She was fully aware of this, and our weekly visits became a treasured time of sharing our wonder, fears, and hopes about life, faith, death, and the mystery of the triune God. Having lived much of her adult life in France, she soon got me into the habit of leaving her with an *Au revoir* ("Until we see each other again"). This went on for a little more than a year, during which time she grew increasingly weaker. Ever more often, I could see that her doctor had been there, and painkillers gave way to injections. During this whole process, it amazed me how her eyes seemed to become ever more radiant while the rest of her feeble frame seemed only to fade away.

One day, when we were talking about the unity of the Eucharist - our bread for the journey - she asked me to read from chapter seventeen of John's Gospel, the place where Jesus prays that "those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory" (Jn 17:24). Afterwards, when I got ready to leave and pronounced my usual, heavily accented *Au revoir*, she looked me deeply in the eyes and said, "No...*Adieu!*" ("To God"). That very night, she died quietly in her sleep, alone, but, I'm convinced, within a deep sense of communion.

At her funeral, it dawned on me that we had never talked about what "heaven is like." This was not because of lack of faith in the concept of eternal life but more of a shared, yet unspoken, insight that we are totally unable to imagine a state of life other than the one we're in. A good part of the problem many people, believers and nonbelievers alike, have with eternal life stems from an inability to imagine it as other than a continuation of life as we already know it.

So even though the focus today is on eternal life and the connection between resurrected life and life as we know it, Jesus does not bother with human analogies. Recently, Pope John Paul II likewise spoke forcefully of the afterlife not as "a place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Trinity," and encouraged us to participate, even now, in this ultimate reality rather than being preoccupied with how to describe it.

Jesus, Pope John Paul, and Anna all show us that as we live and die, so we "become" eternally. Only in an encounter with the living God and in throwing ourselves into that encounter here and now, in communion, in sickness and in health, in trial and in hope, will the desire of our hearts become our fulfillment.



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?