

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

*6:30 a.m. For The Parish
8:00 a.m. Marguerite Hinkle
7:00 p.m. Robert "Bud" Richter

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

*6:30 a.m. Ann Brenner
8:00 a.m. Lon Porter

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

*6:30 a.m. Int. Roberto Buenconsejo
8:00 a.m. Pamela Beeler

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

*6:30 a.m. Elaine Underhill
8:00 a.m. Kelly Jeanne Finton ALL MASS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

8:00 a.m. Marie Colligan
*5:30 p.m. William D. Key

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

8:00 a.m. Mary Beeler
5:00 p.m. Walter J. Burns

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

7:15 a.m. Beverly Malcolm
9:00 a.m. Amelia Schmitt
11:00 a.m. Dalton O'Boyle
6:00 p.m. For The Parish

*CHAPEL

Second Sunday
in Advent



FROM THE PASTOR:

May this season of Advent be for all of us a grace-filled time, one in which we find ourselves joyfully anticipating the coming of the Lord. We can speak of three comings: the Christmas event when we celebrate the birthday of the Savior; the second coming when we will see Him in all His majesty; and all the in-between comings in our daily lives when we see Him with the eyes of a deep religious faith.



As we prepare for the coming of the Lord, we should be undergoing a kind purification or cleansing of the soul. We need to acknowledge our sins, so that we can be more receptive to God dwelling within us. Take time for the Sacrament of Penance. Our Advent Penance Service is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 17. The neighboring parishes will be offering their penance services the same week on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. We will also be offering additional times for confessions as Christmas approaches.

As you know, Matthew Kelly, a Catholic lay evangelist comes this Thursday evening. I have been hearing really good things about him, and I know you will enjoy his talk. He has a powerful message and communicates it with much enthusiasm and humor. His visit to our parish is a special gift from God to our parish community as we prepare for Christmas.

This week we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. It was to Bernadette at Lourdes, France, 1859, that Mary identified herself as "The Immaculate Conception." Pope Pius IX, in 1854, declared this truth to be a dogma of the faith. Mary, by a special grace from God, was conceived without sin in the womb of her mother. In this way, God prepared Mary, soul and body, to become the mother of the Son of God.

On Thursday of this week we honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. All the school children will be present for Mass. Mary appeared to Juan Diego, a native Aztec peasant, in December 1531, and he was recently canonized a saint by Pope John Paul II. Saint Juan Diego, pray for us!

May you continue to have a good Advent. Try to take some quality time for yourself.

Fr. John

THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – A HOLY DAY

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of our diocese and of the United States, is being celebrated this year on Monday, Dec. 9, instead of today, Dec. 8, because the Sundays of Advent take precedence over a feast day. This feast honoring our Blessed Mother is moved to Monday; however, the obligation to attend Mass is not transferred. Even though it is not a holy day of obligation this year, many will want to honor Mary by attending Mass. In addition to our two morning Masses at 6:30 a.m. (chapel) and 8:00 a.m. (church), we are having an evening Mass at 7:00 p.m.

SERVERS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 14th

8:00 a.m. Alyssa Heidenreich, Trevor Yerrick
5:00 p.m. Sarah Vanderbosch, Becky Vanderbosch
Katelyn Springer, Rachel Yankowiak

Sunday, December 15th

7:15 a.m. Emily Royal, Leah Fridley
Patrick Scully, Christina Brown
9:00 a.m. Danny Khorshid, Ashley Gross
David Elden, Nick Ehlerding
11:00 a.m. Megan Bobay, Bill Workman
Logan Houlihan, Tyler Secrest

NURSERY - Dec. 15th

9:00 a.m. Mark and Sarah Garringer

NEWCOMERS REGISTRATION

Parish representatives will be in the Church Conference Room TODAY, December 8, after the 9 a.m. Mass to welcome and register new members to St. Vincent's.

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: \$ _____

REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM WITH MATTHEW KELLY – DEC. 12



"Have you ever tried to find your way to a place you have never been before with no direction, no map, and no clear destination? Modern men and women have simply become disoriented. We have lost our way. By putting aside the goal of the Christian life – we have lost our spiritual North Star."

Matthew Kelly,
"Rediscovering Catholicism"

Come join fellow parishioners in church on Thursday, December 12th, at 7 p.m. as we welcome Catholic author and speaker, Matthew Kelly, for a special Advent presentation.

With remarkable insight, Kelly dispels dozens of the myths that surround the practice and rejection of Catholicism today and provides a profound and practical vision of what will lead the Catholic Church to thrive again in the future.

ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

ST. VINCENT PARISH FAMILY BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 15th, is the next Knights of Columbus Parish Family Breakfast. Serving times are from 8:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, fruit serving and milk, juice or coffee. All this for only \$4.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children ages 5 to 12 years. Children 4 years and under eat FREE. Family maximum is \$15. Thank you for supporting our parish activity. Proceeds from this event will be used to support Life Teen, Jr. High Life and other parish activities here at St. Vincent's.



Breakfast

CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP

"I helped clean the house." Sarah K.
"Help my Mom and Dad make their bed." Olivia K.

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

MEN'S CLUB - Monday, Dec. 9TH, at 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall
THE WORD - TWO BY TWO - Tuesday, December 10TH, at 8:30 a.m. in the East Meeting Room
SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST - Tuesday, December 10TH, at 6:30 p.m. in the Church
RCIA - Tuesday, December 10TH, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center
K OF C CHRISTMAS PARTY - Tuesday, December 10th, in the Parish Hall
ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT - Wednesday, December 11TH, at 8:00 a.m. in the Reservation Chapel
WINGS - Wednesday, December 10TH, at 9:00 a.m. in the Church
BEREAVEMENT SESSION - Wednesday, December 11TH, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
MOTHERS GATHERED IN PRAYER - Thursday, December 12TH, at 8:30 a.m. in the East Meeting Room
WINGS TOO - Thursday, December 14th, at 9:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center
HOMEBOUND MINISTRY MEETING - Saturday, December 14th, at 8:30 a.m. in the East Meeting Room

HARVEST HOUSE PLANS CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Harvest House will have a Christmas potluck on Monday, Dec. 16, 2002, at the Spiritual Center. Sister Kay will lead a prayer service at 11:15 a.m., followed by dinner. Please bring a dish to share. Meat, beverages and table settings will be furnished. We will have a "steal" drawing after dinner. Please bring a nice white elephant gift for the drawing. RSVP 482-2085 or 483-7252 by Dec. 12.

Seniors!! Give us a try!! You don't need to be a member to join us for a fun day!

RCIA

The RCIA process is ongoing and one can join at any time. There are, however, circumstances that require a longer period of time. If you would like to know more about the Catholic church, its teachings and traditions, please call the church office at 489-3537.

THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is an easy way for you to brighten the Christmas of someone less fortunate. Take an angel ornament off the evergreen tree in the vestibule of the church. Purchase the gift request (written on the angel), wrap it securely, and attach the ornament to the outside of the gift. Then bring it to the church and place it under the tree by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, no later than 2 p.m. and we will be sure it gets delivered to the person in need before Christmas. If you cannot return the gift in time, please refrain from taking an ornament. An evergreen is used as a symbol of our need to be forever giving. If you have any questions, call Craig or Vicki Welch at 483-7257.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE - The Christmas Tree Sale at the Scout Lodge is now in full swing. Open daily from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., open Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and open Friday from noon to 9:00 p.m. All sizes and varieties are now available! Sponsored by the St. Vincent Scouts.

NEW CD - "Have Faith: Classical, Traditional and Contemporary Praise Music" is currently on sale through SCRIP! This CD was recorded by Tony Andorfer, 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.

TWO CHRISTMAS CD'S FEATURING TOM DIDIER AVAILABLE
Tom Didier has two Christmas CD's available. A portion of the profits will be donated to the organ fund. Great for gifts! Available after Masses at the Scrip table.

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!

BAPTIZED DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Grant Paul Sorg, son of Kevin P. and Elizabeth (Hatfield) Sorg
Kaylee Ann Tippmann, daughter of Eugene R. and Theresa (Chambers) Tippmann
Megan Diane Brady, daughter of Michael and Holly (Winkeljohn) Brady
Faith Ann Koesters, daughter of Scott and Tamera (Turnwald) Koesters
Xavier Clark Nolan, son of Samuel and Michelle (Martin) Nolan
Owen Michael Repaal, son of Jeremy S. and Lisa (Russ) Repaal
Zachary Paul Silva, son of Brian P. and Laurel (Beckner) Repaal
Rebekah Anne Staples, daughter of Daniel J. and Mary (Mullendore) Staples
Jackson Nicholas Bradley, son of Michael L. and Jodi (Martin) Bradley
Braden Ray Carrier, son of Matthew R. and Amy (Richardson) Carrier



Advertisers of the Week

Please patronize the companies that support our bulletin.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

BABYSITTING

Need childcare for New Year's Eve? Please call 637-7333. Safe, fun environment.

MORE USHERS ARE NEEDED

Ushers are needed for the 5 p.m. and 7:15 a.m. Masses. Also, please sign up for Masses on Christmas and New Year's Day on the sign up sheet in the usher's room. Thank you.

DIVORCED/SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP

Our next gathering will be a Holiday Potluck on Thursday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center. Ham, condiments, beverages and paper goods will be provided. You are asked to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert. For more info, please call the church office at 489-3537.

ORGAN NEWS UPDATE FROM TONY

Wicks Organ Co. has agreed to keep the organ in repair at no extra charge until major repairs are started this Spring. More updates to come.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ENVELOPE: CHURCH ORGAN

Thank you for using the Capital Improvement envelope found in your monthly packet of Sunday collection envelopes. Your contribution to this fund will help defray the cost of the repair and improvements on our church organ. The estimated cost of this project is \$130,000. Some of our parishioners, having completed their building campaign pledge, will see this as an opportunity to continue giving in support of our building.

LIFE TEEN: INTRODUCING...CHRIS LOWDEN

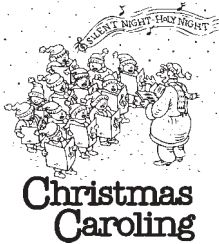
Before being a Life Teen Core Team member, he was known as Johnny Blaze. Well that was his D.J. name he used for work while at Indiana State University. When not spinning tunes, he ran the 800 for the ISU track team. Chris is a graduate of New Haven High School, born and raised in Fort Wayne. He loves music and art. Chris' goal is to be the best he can at everything he does. He's not yet sure what vocation God is calling him to. While he discerns, he brings many gifts to the core team, including: deep passion for the Eucharist, fervor for reaching out to teens, sense of humor, and diligence for continual growth in his faith. Let's pray that Chris sees God's plan for his life, and that he has the courage to continue to follow wherever He leads.

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

Dec. 8 Life Night: Apologetics
Dec. 11 Ministry Hour, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 12 Pray at abortion clinic, 7 a.m.
Speaker: Matthew Kelly, 7 p.m.
Dinner at the Life House, 6 p.m.
Dec. 15 Life Night: Christmas

LIFE TEEN GOES A'CAROLING

Wednesday, Dec. 18 (from 7 - 9) the teens and core team are going Christmas caroling. If you know of someone in the area who is homebound, elderly, sick or could just use a lift in spirit, please call or e-mail Cindy (info. Below) their name and address. We'll do the best we can to make it by their house.



LIFE TEEN BAND CD

The band has a CD in the works and wants the St. Vincent favorites included. So vote for songs you like to hear at the Life Teen Mass. The ballot box is at the back of church.

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

ATTENTION: SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES 30-40 AGE-RANGE SINGLES SCC FORMING

We have two individuals interested in beginning a new community with this main flavor. Please call the church office - 489-3537 if interested.

VIDEOS TO REVIEW

If you or your community are interested in reviewing any of these videos which I have ON LOAN for two weeks, please contact me now. These are done by a local gentleman, Dr. James E. Miller. Catalog available:

- "All Seasons Shall Be Sweet"
(Music and Images to Nurture the Soul) 22 min.
- "The Natural Way Of Prayer"
(Being Free to Express What You feel Deep Within) 30 min.
- "By The Waters Of Babylon"
(A Spiritual Pilgrimage for Those Who Feel Dislocated) 45 min.
- "Nothing Is Permanent Except Change "
(Learning to Manage Transition in Your Life) 33 min.
- "My Shepherd Is The Lord"
(The Timeless Message of the 23rd Psalm) 19 min.

S. Kay Jarema SSND - kjarema@yahoo.com or 489-3537 Ext. 207



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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The date for Confirmation has been set for Monday, February 24, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.



For parents of children ages 7-12, the magazine "My Friend", a Catholic publication reasonably priced, offers a variety of reading and activities. The November issue, for example, includes an article on St. Francis of Assisi, a short story, crafts to make, comics, faith facts, puzzles, etc., all with a specifically Catholic perspective. Subscribe online at www.myfriendmagazine.org or call (800) 876-4463. Some samples are available for viewing in the bookrack near the East Room.

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST: RESPONSIBILITY

"Remember, when you see a man at the top of a mountain, he didn't fall there."

— Author Unknown

ATTENTION SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS OWNERS

St. Vincent's Technology Committee is looking for generous donors to sponsor the purchase of new computers for our school. If your business has had a good financial year, now is the time to consider your year-end tax position. For more information, please contact the school office at 489-3537 Ext. 213.

SUPER DISCOUNT CARDS

Super savings on 34 local merchants - dry cleaning, pizza, videos, ice cream, clothing, and much more! Only \$5.00 per card. The cards make wonderful Christmas gifts. All proceeds go toward St. Vincent Catholic School's 8th grade Spring trip to Washington D.C. Ask any St. Vincent 8th grader or call Karen Woodrum (489-2518) or Tami Peters (627-0730).



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. December 14th after the 5 p.m. Mass and on Sunday, December 15th, 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.

SCRIP SALES - PURCHASE NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

We have a great selection for Christmas gift ideas. Purchase Scrip in the Gathering Space every Sunday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

NO SUNDAY SCRIP SALES ON DEC. 29.

Limited Quantities - Dec. 15 and 22

(9:00 Mass Quick Tip: Drop off your Scrip order at the Scrip table before Mass - it will be ready when Mass is over).

"O HOLY NIGHT"

Direct from the Embassy Festival of Trees...A 7' beautifully decorated tree (The Sprinkling Can) to be raffled off by our 8th Grade D. C. Dreamers. This tree, generously donated by Barnes and Thornburg, can be seen as #14 at the Embassy from November 27th thru December 8th. After December 8th, it will be on display in our Gathering Space until December 22 on which day the raffle will take place. Ticket prices are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00 and on sale after Masses on December 7/8, 14/15 and 21/22. Please come and purchase your chance at owning this beautiful tree (delivery included).



FINAL WEEK FOR "SAVE LIDS TO SAVE LIVES" COLLECTION

This will be the final week for collecting "Save Lids to Save Lives" from Yoplait. Please place them in the box located at the East Entrance door. Thank you.



SNOW REMOVAL!

The Knights of Columbus are offering snow removal for those in need, elderly, disabled, etc. without charge, donations accepted. If we did so for you last year, please call and confirm. Please call before snow flies! You may also use this number as a resource for help with odd jobs around the house. Please call Jim Cox II at 492-7705.

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.

PRO-LIFE NEWS REPORT

Centers for Disease Control statistics indicate that in 1999, some 21,501 children were born in the United States using assisted reproductive techniques. They failed to report another fact.

Extrapolation from those figures shows that about 170,000 human embryos actually died in the attempts by doctors to bring about the birth of a child through in vitro fertilization.

This calculation was made in an article by Dr. James P. Toner on progress on IVF in the journal Fertility and Sterility, and reported by LifeSite.

Voicing the Church's condemnation of IVF, John Paul II said at the Jubilee for Families in 2000: "The tendency to use practices which are morally unacceptable in the generation (of children) betrays the absurdity of the 'right to a child,' which takes the place of the correct recognition of the right of a child to be born and then to grow in a fully human way."

The Pope encouraged couples unable to conceive a child to turn to adoption, a "true exercise of charity that places children's well-being before parental needs."



CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE

5:00 p.m. - 1450 AM

Dec. 9 - Mon	The Doctor Is In	Dr. Guarendi
Dec. 10 - Tues.	Come Home For Christmas	Fr. Ryland
Dec. 11 - Wed.	Beating the Holiday Blues	Fr. Groeschel
Dec. 12 - Thurs.	Catholic Teachings on Sex & Marriage	Christopher West
Dec. 13 - Fri.	Open Q & A	James Akin

WOMEN'S CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH - MARCH 7TH & 8TH

The next Christ Renews His Parish weekend for women is scheduled for March 7-8th, 2003. This Christ Renews weekend is a chance to renew and recharge your faith in Christ. It is a time of prayer, reflection and fellowship. If you have not made a weekend, now is your chance. Please call Judy Meiklejohn at 490-6113 to make your reservation today.

MEN'S CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKEND

The next Christ Renews His Parish weekend for men will be held on February 22-23, 2003. It will enrich your spiritual life with fellowship, scripture and prayer. Call Len Pirocato at 489-2294 or e-mail him at Lpiro@comcast.net.

CHRISTMAS FOOD COLLECTION

The following items are needed for our food pantry. Breakfast cereals and other breakfast products, macaroni products, peanut butter and jellies, canned fruit and canned meats. These items are needed for our Christmas Food Baskets that will be delivered to those families in our parish and community who are in need of food. Bring your food donation to church on Sat. Dec. 14 and Sunday, Dec. 15. Thank you.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY MESSAGE TO ALL PARISHIONERS

Many members of St. Vincent's have been affected by the recent recession experienced in our economy. Some by loss of long-held jobs, others through extended layoffs, and many through re-structuring or downsizing in local companies that have in the past provided long term employment and job security for many of our families.



Other parishioners may be experiencing the financial burdens caused by unexpected medical expenses of hospitalization, home nursing care, or the high cost of prescriptions not covered by insurance plans.

Whatever the causes may be, if you have any current needs that you are unable to take care of or manage in the way you have been able to do in the past, please be aware that your St. Vincent de Paul Conference, your fellow parishioners, are here for you in your time of need. We may not have all the answers, or immediate solutions to all of your problems, but we hope to be able to ease your burden in some way, and we would welcome the privilege to try. Please call us at 489-3537 so we may be of service in your time of need.

St. Vincent's St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

In a time of loss it is important to know that there is a place where you can be with others who understand your pain. This is a time when being with others who have walked their own path of grief may be of comfort and offer us solace in a way that our families and friends cannot give.



As part of our service, St. Vincent's Bereavement Ministry is holding a Bereavement Support Group Session which will meet each Wednesday (except day before Thanksgiving) for 5 weeks. The time and remaining date is

7:00 p.m. on Dec. 11. They will be held in the Spiritual Center. It is our hope to provide a comforting atmosphere in which to share the grief and bereavement process and to offer emotional support. These groups have proven helpful to many. You are not alone in your pain and there is much that can be done to help the healing process.

If this is what you are looking for, call Therese 489-6741 or Evelyn 637-6492.

FREE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT CATHEDRAL

The Snider High School Wind Ensemble will present a free concert of Advent and Christmas music in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2:00 p.m. The one-hour program will feature seasonal favorites from Bach, Bizet, Gabrieli, Holst and Tchaikovsky, as well as many popular caroles. The Ensemble is directed by Kevin Klee, a Cathedral parishioner.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CATHEDRAL

Please join a brass ensemble, the Cathedral Choir, guest pianist, Dyne Pfeffenberger and harpist Nancy Morse for special holiday music and caroling on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne. The concert is free and open to the public.



51ST CHRIST CHILD FESTIVAL

The Christ Child Festival is organized to share the Good News of Christ. This year's theme is Christ, Our Savior, Is Born! This special event will be held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on Friday, December 13 (6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.), Saturday, December 14 (12 noon - 8:00 p.m.), and Sunday, December 15 (12 noon - 6:00 p.m.).

"ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM"

Come join us at Benoit Academy for "One Night in Bethlehem" on Friday, December 13. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with the children's choir and auction in the school gymnasium. Bid on decorated Christmas trees, a Peg Perigo Power Wheel, other toys or gift certificates. Then walk the road to Bethlehem. Enjoy our Living Nativity with live camels, sheep and a multitude of other animals, shops and end your journey at the stable with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and a choir of angels. Outdoor shows will run every 15 minutes from 7:00 - 8:45 p.m. Benoit Academy is located at the corner of Hessen Cassel and Paulding Roads.

MUSIC AT ST. PETER'S

The Fort Wayne Mannerchor-Damenchor will be performing a German Christmas Concert at St. Peter's Catholic Church on Sunday, December 15, 2002, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The church is located at 500 E. DeWald Street. This concert is a part of the "Music at St. Peter's" series. If you enjoy German Christmas music, please join us for this traditional concert.

ST. NICHOLAS DAY SALE

The Cathedral Book Store on Cathedral Square in downtown Fort Wayne will hold its annual 20%-off St. Nicholas Day Sale from Sat., Dec. 7 through Sat., Dec. 14, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (M-F hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.). St. Nick will be there to talk with the children and be available for photos on Dec. 7 only.

CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NEED OF CATHOLIC FAMILIES

Youth Exchange Services (YES), a non-profit international and educational organization fostering goodwill, love and friendship among nations, is in need of Catholic families all over the United States who would like to host during a second semester or one school year (9 months) well-educated 15 to 18 years old Catholic high school students from Asia, Europe and Latin America. The students are carefully screened and oriented before arrival; they speak fairly good English, have excellent medical insurance and bring their own spending money.

Host families are asked to provide a bed, meals and to accept the student as their own son or daughter. This is great, enriching and unforgettable experience for everyone in the family. For detailed information, please contact: YOUTH EXCHANGE SERVICES (YES), 1600 Dove Street, Suite 460, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or phone: (800) 848-2121.



What are the Jesse Tree and The Giving Tree?

Dear Padre,

I noticed in our parish bulletin that our parish is setting up a "Jesse" tree and a "giving" tree for Advent. What are these trees?
Lost in the Forest!

Dear Lost,

Parishes and families use the Jesse tree and the giving tree as two distinct ways to prepare for the coming of Jesus, the child-king. We use the Jesse tree to remember Jesus' own royal family tree. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke contain lists of the ancestors of Jesus. Matthew traces Jesus' genealogy back to Abraham (1:1-17), and Luke's goes back to Adam (3:23-28). Almost every ancestor is mentioned, of course, because the purpose is to connect Jesus to Abraham and to Adam. Primarily, this history puts us in touch with the continuous longing of the "chosen people" for a Messiah. Over the days of Advent, the names of significant persons in the Israelites' history and quotations from the Hebrew Testament are hung on the branches of the Jesse tree as a preparation for Christmas. Usually the Jesse tree is placed in a prominent position, in the church or the home, so all can see the history of Jesus unfolding as we get closer and closer to Christmas.

The giving tree challenges each family or member of the parish to buy a gift for someone in need. The parish sets up a tree, which is decorated with tags indicating gifts for those in need. Clothing sizes and children's ages are connected with the requests on the tree, so that the givers can easily get the needed items and return their gifts to the parish church by a designated date. The gifts are then distributed before Christmas. The giving tree unites us to the great message Jesus continues to give us at Christmas: Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me (Mt 25:40).

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