

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH**

\*6:30 a.m. Rose Gensheimer  
8:00 a.m. Doris A. Poiry

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH**

\*6:30 a.m. Schall-Seiler Families  
8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Parsons

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH**

\*6:30 a.m. Donald Strace  
8:00 a.m. John Madden ALL MASS

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH**

\*6:30 a.m. Georgiana Halte  
8:00 a.m. Ryan Ringler

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST**

8:00 a.m. Clarence Murray  
\*5:30 p.m. Harold Smith

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND**

8:00 a.m. Francis Saum  
5:00 p.m. Elizabeth & William Edsall

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD**

7:15 a.m. Mary Beeler  
9:00 a.m. Rosalina Alcalá  
11:00 a.m. Edward Hilker  
6:00 p.m. For The Parish (Life Teen Mass)

\*CHAPEL



**SERVERS' SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, February 22nd**

8:00 a.m. Joe Richardville, Chris Stump  
5:00 p.m. Patrick Colligan, Aaron Voors  
James Thompson, Chelsea Klinker

**Sunday, February 23rd**

7:15 a.m. Zach Meyer, Michael Heimann  
Kelsey Weller, Mitchell Vanderhagen  
9:00 a.m. Leah Fridley, Jenna Voirol  
Candace Frane, Stefan Coonan  
11:00 a.m. Felicia Jones, Logan Houlihan  
Scott Nill, Drew Giant

**SACRISTAN MINISTRY**

Saturday, Feb. 22 5:00 p.m. Mike Jones  
Sunday, Feb. 23 7:15 a.m. Tom Kleber, Jr.  
9:00 a.m. Martin Heiny  
11:00 a.m. Tammy Adams

**NURSERY – Sunday, February 16th**

9:00 a.m. Charles and Beth Tapley

**WEDDING BANNES**

II Lucas Smith and Angela Cutigny



**MOMS – MINISTRY OF MOTHERS SHARING**



This ministry is taking registrations for the winter session. Open to all women who want to develop self-esteem, relationship skills, and a more defined sense of their own spirituality while facing the challenges of raising a family. The session begins Tuesday, February 25th, at 7 p.m. and will run for 8 weeks. Call Ann Arnold at 489-8426 to register. Space is limited!

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

If you would like to meet some of your fellow parishioners for some prayer, fellowship and food to begin your day off on the right foot, plan to join men of the parish at the Omega Family Restaurant on Coliseum Boulevard this Friday, February 21st, at 6:00 a.m. ALL MEN ARE WELCOME!



**PRAY WITH THE BLUE ARMY**

Beginning the first Saturday of March, parishioners are invited to pray Blue Army prayers immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Reservation Chapel. Questions? Call 483-2465.

**FROM THE PASTOR:**

With the ever-increasing prospect of war with Iraq on the horizon and the ongoing threat of terrorism, it is important that we intensify our prayers for peace. Bishop D'Arcy is asking that every parish of the diocese to offer prayers for peace at Mass. He suggests the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass as an appropriate time to do this. He also reminds us that, since the Holy Father has designated this as the Year of the Rosary, it would be most fitting to pray the rosary for peace, as a community and individually. Before each 6:30 or 8:00 a.m. weekday Mass, the rosary is prayed by those present; you are invited to participate in this community prayer. Also, you are urged to incorporate the rosary in your daily prayer life. It would be wonderful if the families of the parish would find time in their busy schedules to pray the rosary. Perhaps once a week, or more often. Also, the Small Christian Communities of our parish may want to consider incorporating the praying of the rosary in their meetings, if they are not already doing so. The prayer of God's faithful people is powerful. Let us not underestimate its power to change the ways of a sinful people. May we also keep in our prayers the loved ones of parishioners who are currently serving in the military.

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Last Sunday, I addressed at all the Masses the subject of stewardship of treasure during my homily. Thank you for listening to my words and giving them prayerful thought. Today a couple from our parish will give a lay witness talk on stewardship. Needless to say, they were not thrilled with the prospect of giving this talk before all the parishioners and their friends. No one ever is. But being good and faithful members of the parish, they understand that this is an opportunity to be of service to the community. I am very grateful to this couple for doing this.

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It's been a long, cold January and February. We are all looking forward to the warmth of springtime. It can't come soon enough.

Fr. John

**BOOK SALE COMING TO ST. VINCENT'S**



Our parish will host a pre-Lenten (or spiritual reading) book sale after all the weekend Masses including the 6 p.m. Mass, February 15 and 16.

Spiritual reading is a long-standing Catholic practice which provides nourishment for one's faith and support for one's personal prayer. Sr. Joyce Diltz, PHJC and volunteers will be here representing the bookstore from Bethany Retreat House, East Chicago, IN, and will be happy to help you find just the right book for your spiritual

**BOOK SALE**

reading. The bookstore offers a wide selection of titles on prayer and meditation, spirituality, personal growth, journaling, scripture, loss and grieving, family life, and more, as well as titles for teens and children. Meditation music is also available. Be sure to stop by the East Meeting Room after the Masses to see what is available.

**LENTEN MATERIAL MADE AVAILABLE**

As in past years, Lenten pamphlet materials will be available at all Masses during the weekend of February 23 and 24 and March 1 and 2. There are daily meditations, morning and evening prayer, Holy Hour devotions, Stations of the Cross and family meditations. For the children, there are I Spy and sticker books. The parish offers this as a service. Donations are accepted to help pay the bill.

**PALM BRANCHES**

We will be burning palm branches blessed on Palm Sunday of last year. You may bring your blessed palm branches from home and place them in the basket located in the Gathering Space. The ashes from the burnt branches will be used in our Ash Wednesday ceremony. The LAST day palms will be received is March 2nd.

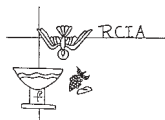


## Meetings of the Week

MINISTERS REFLECTION – Monday, February 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center  
 BUILDING AND GROUNDS – Monday, February 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Teachers' Lounge  
 THE WORD – TWO BY TWO – Tuesday, February 18th, at 8:30 a.m. in the East Meeting Room  
 SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST – Tuesday, February 18th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Reservation Chapel  
 RCIA – Tuesday, February 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center  
 ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT – Wednesday, February 19th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Reservation Chapel  
 WINGS – Wednesday, February 19th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Center  
 ATHLETIC BOOSTER BOARD – Wednesday, February 19th, in the Teachers' Lounge  
 RCIC – Wednesday, February 19th, in the Spiritual Center  
 K OF C MEMBERSHIP MEETING – Wednesday, February 19th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Life House with Rosary recited at 7:00 p.m.  
 MOTHERS GATHERED IN PRAYER – Thursday, February 20th, at 8:30 a.m. in the East Meeting Room  
 WINGS TOO – Thursday, February 20th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Center  
 BAPTISMAL PREPARATION II – Thursday, February 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the East Meeting Room  
 DISABILITY TEAM – Thursday, February 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Convent Back Room  
 MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST – Friday, February 21st, at the Omega Restaurant on Coliseum Boulevard  
 MEN'S CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKEND – Saturday and Sunday, February 22nd and 23rd

### HARVEST HOUSE FEBRUARY MEETING CHANGED

The Harvest House meeting for Feb. 17, 2003 (Monday) has been changed. We plan to go to an extraordinary Dickens Village display in Auburn, and then lunch at the Bread Basket. This will be Tuesday, Feb. 18 (weather permitting). We will meet in the front parking lot (by the old church) at 10 a.m. and carpool. Please call Lorraine 637-0242; Margaret F. 482-2085; or Margaret L. 483-7252, and please let us know if you are going so we won't wait for you.



**RCIA** - If you or someone you know would like to know more about the Catholic faith, its teachings and traditions, please call the church office at 489-3537. RCIA is an on-going process and an Inquirer can begin at any time. However, for those seeking baptism, the process is longer and any who hope to be baptized at the 2004 Easter Vigil, should begin now.

### ATTENTION: ALL MINISTERS

(Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans, Homebound Ministers)  
 Please note the following dates for our Spring reflections:

Monday evening February 17 7:00 p.m.  
 Monday evening March 10 7:00 p.m.  
 Saturday morning March 22 8:30 a.m.  
 Thursday evening May 1 7:00 p.m.

All reflections will be held in the Spiritual Center. Please remember that ministers **MUST** attend one of these reflections in order to remain active in your ministry.

### USHERS SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

**Saturday**  
 5:00 p.m. Tom Davis, Dan Bireley, Larry Eberle, Roger Klosterman, Bill Fraunfelder

**Sunday**  
 7:15 a.m. Joe Ryan, Bernie Niezer, William Grant, Bill Frantz  
 9:00 a.m. Paul Freson, Joe Siman, Jeff Sorg, Tim Leffers, Scott Wilder,  
 11:00 a.m. Greg Pac, James Fanger, Mike Thomas, Mike McCarthy, Andy Tomatore



### 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!

### OPENINGS AT U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Vehicle Motor Operator, Tractor Trailer Operator and Rural Carrier Associate positions are available. Call Personnel in Indianapolis at 1-866-999-8777.



### ADULTS AND TEENS –

#### HAVE YOU BEEN CONFIRMED?

Bishop D'Arcy has announced that adult confirmation will be on June 8, 2003 at the Cathedral. If there is anyone who for whatever reason has not been confirmed, please contact Fr. Mark at the church office by March 8 (489-3537). There will be a six-week preparation course which is **MANDATORY**.

### 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  |
| February 27 | February 20 |
| March 13    | March 20    |
| March 27    |             |

## Advertisers of the Week

Please patronize the companies that support our bulletin.

### DISCIPLES IN MISSION

The last facilitator training session for Disciples In Mission will be Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6:45 p.m. in the Spiritual Center. Questions? Call Scott McLeish at 485-6481.

Over the last two weeks, we have been signing up for Disciples In Mission and the response has been excellent! Approximately 750 parishioners have joined faith-sharing groups, and the number is still growing. If you have not signed up, you may still register at the Disciples in Mission table in the Gathering Space after Mass today. Registration cards must be turned in by Monday, Feb. 17. For further assistance, please call Scott or Cathy McLeish at 485-6481, Kris Gill at 438-2589, or Sister Kay at 489-3537 Ext. 207. May we continue to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit at the Lenten season approaches.

### CATHOLIC SERENDIPITY BIBLE SALE

As a service to our parishioners and courtesy of a great price reduction through Cathedral Bookstore, volunteers will be selling these Bibles. Hard cover (\$25) and soft cover (\$19) will be sold after all Masses Feb. 22-23, March 1-2. Money due at time of purchase. If you would like to help after a Mass, contact Mary Osborn at 497-7435.

### NOTRE DAME ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER - TODAY

This annual fundraiser will take place **TODAY**, Feb. 16, 2003 from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. at St. Vincent's Parish Hall. Notre Dame football players featured. Admission includes food. Refreshments available. Tickets - \$6 at door. All men, 21 and over, are invited. No admittance until door opens at 12:30 p.m. **NO SMOKING OF ANY KIND ALLOWED.**



**LIFE TEEN INTRODUCING ...**

**CORE TEAM MEMBER, JACKI RUDE**

Jacki and her husband, Jeff, were among the first core members to sign on once I became Youth Director. They are a tremendous blessing. When they plan a Life Night, it is done to perfection. Jacki was born in Staten Islands, NY but grew up in Huntington, Indiana in the Catholic faith, which has always been her source of comfort. She graduated from IU Bloomington Business School with a BS in Marketing and Distribution Management. She feels very fortunate to have found someone like Jeff to share her life and faith with. She loves being a mother to their sons, Jacob and Zachary. She really thinks that Life Teen has rejuvenated her faith life. In her limited spare time, she enjoys watching HOOSIER basketball (perhaps Jacki's only shortcoming), reading, hanging out at the beach or pool, hiking, and the outdoors. We are thankful that they are committed to driving from Auburn each week to minister to the teens.

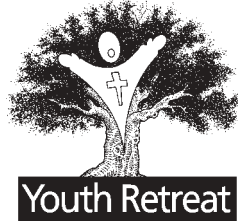
**YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR**

- Feb. 16 Life Night: Hang 10
- Feb. 17 JHL Core Team Reflection
- Feb. 19 Breakin' Open the Word, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 20 Pray at Abortion Clinic
- Ministry Hour, 7:15 p.m.
- Feb. 23 Life Night: Who's Your Daddy?



**BE A HERO**

Is the theme of our LIFETEEN spring retreat, March 14-16. All high school teens are encouraged to attend and find out how to be a "super hero." If you feel like you are missing or lacking something, try this. Registration forms available from Cindy Black or at [www.SaintV.org/Lteen/applicationform.doc](http://www.SaintV.org/Lteen/applicationform.doc) or [www.SaintV.org](http://www.SaintV.org) under Youth Ministry and click LIFETEEN.



**LIFETEEN IS GOING TO STEUBENVILLE!**

We have 30 spots (approx. 25 teens and 5 adult core) for the Summer Youth Conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, June 20-22. Thousands of teens from all over attend these highly energetic, charismatic, spiritual weekends. We are filling the spots quickly, so don't delay.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ For information about St. Vincent's Youth Ministry, ★

★ contact Cindy Black at 489-3537 Ext. 228 or ★

★ e-mail [Cblack@SaintV.org](mailto:Cblack@SaintV.org). ★

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**THANK YOU**

To all who donated to our baby drive. We collected many items for the Hope Center. We thank you for your generosity.  
Angela Yankowiak and Maree Young

**LET'S PRAY FOR THOSE PROTECTING OUR NATION**

- We need to remember in our prayers those who serve our nation in active duty, especially the following:
- A1C Andrew Grashoff
  - HM3 Ed Gallagher
  - Spec. Brian Peniston
  - Major John M. Busch
  - A1C Matthew Stier
  - PV2 William Simmonds
  - LCPL Daniel Epple
  - L/CPL Christopher Amstutz
  - SPC Anthony R. Beeler
  - S1C Bryan Zuber



If you have a spouse or son or daughter in the military, we will gladly publish his/her name in the bulletin. Please call the church office if you wish to submit a name.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

Confirmation will be on Monday, February 24, at 7:00 p.m. Bishop D'Arcy will confirm the eighth grade students. All students and sponsors should arrive at 6:30 p.m. and congregate in the Gathering Space in the church.



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Classes for all eighth graders in Religious Education continue after Confirmation. Eighth graders will be studying morality, chastity, justice, the Beatitudes, choosing life, the Ten Commandments, etc. during the remaining weeks of the catechetical year. Our young people must be informed of the teachings of the Church on these important moral issues.

**\*\*NOTE\*\***

**NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OR PRESCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16.**

**TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR THE 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR**

We have elected FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment to process and evaluate financial aid applications for the 2003-2004 school year. If you are interested in applying for Tuition Assistance, please call the church or school office. Deadline for Tuition Assistance applications is MARCH 28. Financial assistance is available to parents seeking a Catholic education for their child. However, it is necessary that the family demonstrate financial need.

**LARGE FAMILY DIOCESAN FUND FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE**

Is designed to provide financial assistance to families with three or more children in Catholic elementary and/or high schools. Information and application forms are available in the parish and/or school office. Completed forms are due in the Fort Wayne Catholic Schools Office by May 23, 2003. There will be only one distribution date in 2003. However, it is necessary that the family demonstrate financial need.

**TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL**

Transportation to and from St. Vincent School is needed for my 3rd grade son. He would be picked up and dropped off on Auburn Road, approx. ¼ mile north of Union Chapel Road. Please call Theresa Larocque at 471-6631 if available.

**SUNDAY SCRIP SALES**

We're now located in the corner by the Church Conference Room across from the restrooms.

Weekly sales every Sunday from 8 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and following Life Teen Mass in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your support!

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

**COACHES NEEDED FOR SPRING SPORTS**

We are still in need of spring coach for the track team. Also, a 5th grade cheerleading coach is needed for the 2003-2004 school year. If you are interested, please contact Paul Cassabon at 489-3537 Ext. 218.

**HEY KIDS!! PLAY BALL!!!**

The Wallen Baseball, Washington Twp. Softball, Tee Ball and Lob Ball registration will take place on Sat., Feb. 15, 22 and March 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Registration will take place at the Washington Twp. Firehouse on Wallen Rd. Leagues are available for boys ages 8-15, girls ages 8 - 18 and boys/girls ages 4 - 7. Information sheets are available in the school office or you can call 471-1113 for more information.

**HASA SPONSORED GARAGE SALE**

This garage sale will be during the week of Spring Break. Please start collecting your gently used clothes, toys and etc. for this event. The proceeds will go to the school kitchen. Further details will follow.



## 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.



Reach out to those in need

## MISS VIRGINIA MISSION SUNDAY

Please remember this ministry to the needy of the inner city next Sunday, February 23rd. 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.

## MEN'S CHRIST RENEWS HIS WEEKEND – DON'T DELAY!

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.



## SIGN UP NOW FOR THE

## WOMEN'S CHRIST RENEWS HIS WEEKEND

The next Christ Renews His Parish weekend for women is scheduled for March 8-9, 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.

## HOLY FAMILY PENNY COLLECTION

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. 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.



## MARDI GRAS 2003 – MARCH 1, 2003

**6:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.**

St. Vincent's 40th Annual Mardi Gras Event is planned for Saturday, March 1, 2003. This year's King and Queen of Hearts, Brian and Diane Pelkington, invite you to share in a great long-running tradition. Tickets will be on sale after the weekend Masses. Ticket prices are \$25.00 per ticket or \$45.00 per couple. This year's theme is "Let the Good

Times Roll" Casino Night. Your ticket price includes all of the beverages you can drink, dinner furnished by Casa's, dancing to the band "Nostalgia" (5 decades of Rock and Roll), two hours of fun and gambling (with proceeds going toward the LIFETEEN program and the Organ Rebuild Fund), souvenirs, and lots of door prizes that you will have the chance to bid on with your winnings. If you have any questions, please call Angie Harber 486-9852 or e-mail AngieHarber@aol.com. (Large groups are welcome and table groupings can be reserved with the purchase of a group of tickets).

St. Vincent's LIFETEEN's will be hosting a parent's night out for this evening's event. So call Angie early to reserve a spot for your children. LET'S START LENT OUT WITH A BANG!!!

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's membership meeting for St. Vincent Council 11353 will be held on Wednesday, February 19, in the Life Teen house. We will start with the Rosary at 7:00 p.m. and then begin the General Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Brother Knights, come and get caught up on the great activities of your council.

## 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.

## FISH AND CHICKEN FRY AT BISHOP DWENGER

Come join Tuffy and the rest of the Dwenger Saints at the Annual Bank & Guard Fish and Chicken Fry on Friday, February 21st, followed by boys' basketball against East Noble High School. The fish and chicken dinner will be served from 4:30 until 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Food prepared by Ed Fox. Dinner tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 5 – 8 years. Under 5 is free.



## DEAR FRIENDS OF MATTHEW 25 HEALTH AND DENTAL CLINIC

"Since we receive no government funding, it is only through the generosity of churches such as yours our mission to 'afford our fellow human beings with the medical, dental, vision and social health necessary to bring about a good and nurturing style of life' is able to continue. Please accept our sincere thank-you for your recent donation in the amount of \$242.69 that was received by the Clinic to assist with operating expenses. Your ongoing support is most appreciated!"

Nancy K. Schenkel, Administrator

## RETREAT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS & YOUNG ADULTS



Retreat

The 8th Annual Bishop's Retreat for College Students and Young Adults, entitled "I Have A Mission: To Build Brick by Brick the City of God", will be held at Oakwood Inn in Syracuse on March 28, 29, and 30. Speakers will include Fr. Dan Scheidt, Sr. Lucille Martinez, OSF, and Bishop D'Arcy. Discussions, reflections, reconciliation, and Sunday morning liturgy will be offered. The price is great — \$45.00 covers the cost of all food and lodging for those who register before March 17th, \$75.00 for those who register after that date. The retreat content will be directed to those 18 – 40 years of age: single, married and single-again. The aim is to provide a prayerful and powerful Lenten experience for the participants.

## CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE – 5:00 p.m. – 1450 AM

|                  |                             |            |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Feb. 17 - Mon.   | A Good Confession           | E. Beltran |
| Feb. 18 - Tues.  | Want To Be An Apologist     | Jimmy Akin |
| Feb. 19 - Wed.   | Open Q & A                  | K. Keating |
| Feb. 20 - Thurs. | Healing a Troubled Marriage | Steve Wood |
| Feb. 21 - Fri.   | Open Q & A                  | Jimmy Akin |

## MISSING ANY DISHES????

If you brought food to any function and are missing a dish, please pick it up in the Spiritual Center in the room across from the kitchen. Any dishes uncollected will be placed in the HASA Garage Sale on April 5th.



## **PRO-LIFE UPDATE: WHAT IS THE SOUL OF OUR CULTURE?**

This debate (about partial-birth abortion) searches out the soul of our culture. It is ultimately a question of how we are willing to define ourselves as a civilization. We must ask ourselves, are we so self-indulgent in our Nation that all notions of right and wrong can be summarily reduced to a matter of choice?... Let us reaffirm America as a culture of hope, a culture of life.

U.S. Rep. Tim Hutchinson

## **FRANCISCAN CENTER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT**

The Franciscan Center is in need of the following items:

- Clothing of all sizes
- New & gently used toys
- Sandwich bags
- Gallon Size storage bags
- Brown paper grocery bags

You may drop these off at the center: 4643 Gaywood Drive (the old Sacred Heart School) 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.**



## **NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING INITIAL SESSIONS**

Saturday, March 1, 2003, there will be a class at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Fort Wayne. The class runs from 9 – 11 a.m. This class is conducted by the diocesan Office of Family Life and is open to engaged and married couples. The fee for the session is \$25.00. Registration is required. To register, call (574) 234-0687.

Another session is planned for March 22, 2003 at Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne, from 9 – 11 a.m. The above registration information is the same for this session.

## **SPRING BREAK CAMP AT YMCA**

Parkview YMCA will be taking Spring Camp registrations starting February 10, 2003. The YMCA will be offering lots of fun activities for your school age children. Gear up for spring while taking a break from school during the week of April 4, 2003. We will be having Naked Clay Café coming in to do a pottery

class, and a trip to the Roller Dome is planned just to name a few of the activities planned. Children can be dropped off as early as 7:00 a.m. and the fun won't stop until 6:00 p.m. Member fee \$95.00 and Non-member fee \$120.00. The activity fee for field trip and pottery

## **WRESTLING CAMP OFFERED**

### **AT BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL**

Bishop Dwenger High School will host a wrestling camp for all interested boys in grades 1 – 8. The camp will run from February 24 – March 6, 2003. Camp sign up is February 24 at 5:30 p.m. for grades 1 – 4 and 6:45 p.m. for grades 5 – 8. CYO wrestling will begin on March 10 and finish on March 23, 2003. Practices for grades 5 – 8 will be from 6 – 7:30 p.m. If you have any questions contact Coach John Bennett at (260) 496-4700, ext. 304 or (260) 486-5805. You may also e-mail Coach Bennett at [jbennett@bishopdwenger.com](mailto:jbennett@bishopdwenger.com).

## **TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO HIS SPIRIT**

Adoration affords us the opportunity to become quiet, quiet enough to hear what His Spirit is saying, and calm enough to reflect upon the deeper meaning of experience, in order to learn what God wants to reveal to us through persons and events in our lives.

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 Francie McComb at 489-6716 if you would like to do this and be scheduled for a specific hour. Drop-ins are welcome.

# **GOOD NEWS**

## **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Lv 13:1-2,44-46; 1Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45

*Hans Christoffersen*

Who among us does not remember the teasing we received and/or dished out in school? I know well that I was on the receiving end of this, but I also remember joining forces with others to ostracize somebody else. How mean we were! Singling out somebody for mobbing and teasing most often focused on something purely insignificant and accidental to that person's dignity and worth: the clothes he or she wore, family background, weight, pimples, etc. For me, it was most often the style and prescription strength of my eyeglasses that earned me the nickname "four-eyes"! I now have to acknowledge that in order to deflect the focus from me, I gladly joined in indiscriminately tossing verbal wounds and insults at others.

Back then, we resorted to social exclusion of others out of our own insecurities, and so we latched on to whatever met the eye as "unclean," unusual, and blemished in another, while doing whatever we could to keep any focus off our own inner blemishes, uncleanness, existential human impairments, and sin.

Of course, we were just kids then, right? We don't do these things anymore, right? I think today's Scripture passages intend to tell us differently: even as adults, we can treat others in our midst as "lepers"--people we consider blemished and not of "good company"--and keep our distance and our paths separate.

The gospel invites us to tear those barriers down. "A leper came to Jesus." This fact goes against every convention of how a leper was supposed to avoid coming close to anyone not unclean. Even more astonishingly, the response of Jesus to this behavior is to reach out and touch the leper, healing him. It is little wonder that this man, in spite of Jesus' warning, cannot contain his joy and simply has to spread this amazingly good news!

Who are the ones in need of touch in my life? Who is the "leper" that I invite to come closer? With whom do I share the touch of Christ, and from whom do I withhold it? What about my own, perhaps hidden, leprosy? Do I take the unclean aspects of my own life before the Lord or do I make every effort to ignore these by keeping them hidden--from myself and others--and away from the light of day? Do I share my joy of having been touched and healed by the Lord in baptism, Eucharist, reconciliation, anointing...? Or is this joy my "best kept secret"?

"If you wish, you can make me clean" (Mk 1:40b).



## 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.*



## Did Jesus have to be baptized?

*Dear Padre,*

Why did Jesus have to be baptized? Did he have original sin? I'm confused

*Need to know*

*Dear Need to know,*

First of all, Jesus did not have original sin. The New Testament tells us that Jesus was like us in all things but sin (see Hebrews 4:15). In some ways, Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism had the same question you do. John says that Jesus should baptize him, not the other way around. When Jesus insists that John baptize him, it is for another reason.

When John baptizes Jesus, it is the first time the two have come into direct contact. Matthew, Mark, and Luke begin Jesus' public ministry with the preaching of John the Baptist. It is a clear call to repentance. When Jesus encounters John the Baptist at the Jordan, it is as though Jesus receives the torch from this forerunner. Jesus begins his preaching with the same theme: Repent, the kingdom of God is near.

We often see our baptism as a cleansing from original sin and entrance into the Catholic faith. Indeed, that is what happens at baptism. But the gospels tell us that something else happens too. It is the beginning of our ministry in our lives, our vocation begins with our baptism. Such a thought makes sense if we think of adult baptism, but how can it apply to infant baptism? A baby's ministry begins first by watching and learning from the significant adults in his or her life. How that child will respond to the disappointments in life, the struggles with selfishness, the desire to be generous - all these things are being formed in the baby by the way the baby sees them being handled by the adults. We make a terrible mistake if we think a child doesn't see what we are doing. The baptism of a baby puts a great burden on the parents, the older brothers and sisters, the in-laws, the relatives, and the godparents. What kind of message that child will speak when he or she leaves home and starts out on his or her own, depends on what message that child received from the significant adults, the forerunners who hand that message on, just as John did to Jesus.

The Padre  
*Fr. William J. Parker, C.Ss.R.*

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# 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?

