

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, JULY 28th

8:00 a.m. Ellie Bronstetter

TUESDAY, JULY 29TH

8:00 a.m. Tony Theriot

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30TH

8:00 a.m. Ralph Schimmele

THURSDAY, JULY 31ST

8:00 a.m. Mary McCarthy

FIRST FRIDAY, AUGUST 1ST

8:00 a.m. Liv. & Dec. Wm. Martin Family

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2ND

8:00 a.m. Int. Rosary Society

5:00 p.m. Clifford Schlatter

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD

7:15 a.m. John & Helen Hanley

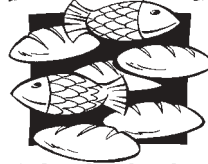
9:00 a.m. Fred & Mary Clements

11:00 a.m. Anna C. Kintz

6:00 p.m. For The Parish (LifeTeen Mass)

*CHAPEL

JESUS FEEDS



5,000

"HELP A NEIGHBOR PROJECT"

WLAB and the Franciscan Center will be collecting gently used toys, games, puzzles, etc. for the toy chest where the kids can get a free toy and book once a month. We will also be collecting non-perishable foods for the food pantry which serves over 1,200 families a month. We are in need of staples such as canned fruits and vegetables, pastas, rice, beans, etc. We will be collecting your donations at St. Vincent's near the Auburn Road entrance on Saturday, August 9th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

REMINDER TO ST. VINCENT SCHOOL PARENTS

If you are paying your tuition and fees in full, please have your payment to the School Office on or before August 1st.



ORIENTATION DAY

Parents and Students – Please plan on stopping by the school between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on August 14 for Orientation Day. This is the day the students can meet the teacher, find out what class they are in, parking lot information, etc. Call the School Office if you have any questions.

A NEW CALL FOR SPIRITUALITY

The most important reason for strongly encouraging the practice of the Rosary is that it represents a most effective means of fostering among the faithful that commitment to the contemplation of the Christian mystery which I have proposed in the Apostolic Letter 'Novo Millennio Ineunte' as a genuine "training in holiness": "What is needed is a Christian life distinguished above all in the art of prayer". Inasmuch as contemporary culture, even amid so many indications to the contrary, has witnessed the flowering of a new call for spirituality, due also to the influence of other religions, it is more urgent than ever that our Christian communities should become "genuine schools of prayer."

Excerpt from Pope John Paul II's Letter, 'Rosarium Virginis Mariae'

SERVERS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 2

8:00 a.m. Ryan Nielson, Johnathan O'Shaughnessy

5:00 p.m. Colleen Witte, Jordan Venderley
Ben Woenker, Hilary Eppl

Sunday, August 3

7:15 a.m. Kevin Stark, Colleen Pion
Joe Voors, Mike Thill

9:00 a.m. David Schwieterman, Nick Ehlerding
Jessica Schenkel, Molly Coffee

11:00 a.m. Johnny Tippmann, Marie Boedeker
Hana Geswein, Scott Nill

NURSERY – Sunday, August 3

9:00 a.m. Kurt and Lisa Endres

WEDDING BANNES

"Let us pray for these sons and daughters of St. Vincent's as they prepare for their wedding day."

III Michael McBride and Lisa Miller

III Michael Zook and Rachel Simcox

II Scott Silver and Chelsea Blanchett

II Craig Hamm and Michelle Haiflich



ATTENTION: EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers are asked to stop in the Usher's Room to pick up their new schedules. Please do so as soon as possible.

ST. VINCENT'S 8TH GRADE

CLASS TRIP BAKE SALE

St. Vincent's 8th graders will be hosting a bake sale TODAY, Sunday, July 27, in the Gathering Space after the 7:15, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses. All funds collected will help reduce the cost of their class trip.



Bake Sale



MAY GOD GRANT

ETERNAL LIGHT AND PEACE

to David Johnson, father of Edward "Ted" Johnson; John C. Campbell, spouse of Patricia and father of Scott Campbell; Phyllis B. Marqueling, spouse of Francis and mother of Frank

Marqueling; Vern Bradley, father of Sherrie Bobay; Billie Norris, father of Denise Heffner; and John Peters, father of Mike Peters.



STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Having completed the stained glass windows along the ambulatory of the church, we turn our attention to the clerestory (second level) windows. We have decided on a design that will complement the lower windows and the architecture of the building. The cost of each window is \$3,500. Because scaffolding has to be erected to install the windows, installation will be in sets of three. A sketch of the design is available in the church office. If you are interested in donating a window, please call the church office.

YOUNG ADULT MEETING – AUG. 7TH - This meeting will be held

in the Spiritual Center at 7 p.m. This is the once-a-month planning meeting. Hope is to have one activity a month. You are welcome to call Sister Kay at 489-3537 Ext. 207 for information

F.A.I.T.H. (FINDING ANSWERS IN THE HOLY SPIRIT)

This group will be a resource and support for couples struggling with infertility in a warm and caring atmosphere. The group will next meet on Tues., July 29, at 7 p.m. in the Life House. The objectives of the group are to provide support and understanding to couples with infertility and to be a resource for couples regarding infertility treatments, adoption and the church's teachings. Please contact Amy Barte 497-8257 if you are planning to attend or with further questions.

RENEW YOUR SPIRIT: SIGN UP FOR THE FALL M.O.M.S. SESSION

This is an opportunity for moms of all ages to learn to deal with stress, develop your everyday spirituality and to grow personally. Learn to share with other moms the stress, concerns and positive experiences that influence you. Experience the support and friendship of other women as you discover the depth of your spirituality. The sessions will be on Tuesdays, beginning September 2. It runs once a week for six weeks in the evening from 7 – 9 p.m. at the St. Vincent's Life House. Call Jeni Owens at 373-0022 if you have any questions or would like to sign up.



M.O.M.S.

Meetings of the Week

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY – Monday, July 27th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
 SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST – Tuesday, July 29th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Reservation Chapel
 ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT – Wednesday, July 30th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Reservation Chapel
 PARISH NURSE MEETING – Wednesday, July 30th, at 7:00 p.m. in the East Meeting Room
 YOUTH DETENTION MINISTRY – Saturday, August 2nd, at 8:45 a.m. in Conference Room #1

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. 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 (East Meeting Room) Session II (Church Conference Room)
NO SESSIONS IN JULY
 August 14 August 21
 August 28



Home Visitation

FOR THE HOMEBOUND

If you have a family member who is homebound and would like a visit or to receive Holy Communion, please call the church office. Also, if a family member is admitted in the hospital through the emergency room, please call. We are only notified of scheduled admissions. Thank you. Call Deb Andrews at 489-3537.

CARING FOR YOUR AGING PARENTS

Are you dealing with an elderly parent and being forced to make difficult decisions regarding living arrangements and health care? A book has been written by Monica and Bill Dodds entitled "Caring For Your Aging Parent – A Guide For Catholic Families". The authors deal with these issues and more. If you are interested in a copy, please call Deb Andrews at 489-3537.

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 \$1,710.00; for two children, \$2,700.00; and for three or more, \$3,555.00. This past year, we gave \$36,418.00 in financial assistance. Thank you very much for supporting our parish grade school.

YOUTH DETENTION MINISTRY

Our ministry is in need of volunteers, men and women over 18 years of age. We minister to the youth at the two Indiana Department of Corrections juvenile detention facilities in Fort Wayne. Volunteers can expect to be scheduled for service every three to four weeks. We schedule the girls' facility on Wednesday evening and the boys' on Sunday morning. Sessions last about one hour. If interested, call Judy Kruk at 637-3238 or Bob Swindler at 490-8150.

ROSARY PROCESSION

Everyone is invited to an Outdoor Procession with the Pilgrim Virgin Statue on Friday, August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption, at the Cathedral following the 5 p.m. Mass. We will be praying the Rosary together for families and for peace in the world as the Holy Father has asked us in this Year of the Rosary. Please join us in honoring Our Blessed Mother!

LIFETEEN REFLECTION

Each time I read the miracle in today's Gospel I think of Father Dan Scheidt. When he was here as a seminarian, he spoke to the teens during a summer event. He read the Multiplication of Loaves and asked the teens to draw a bird's eye view of what it would look like as Jesus fed the 5,000. When they finished he talked of how God abundantly provides for all our needs.

Then he asked the teens to think about what it looks like from above as they all come forward around the altar during the consecration. Wow! Teens, you show us the miracle of the multiplication of loaves as you gather around Jesus, broken on our heavenly table. Just as Jesus provided for the needs of all those who came to be healed, Jesus feeds us with everything we need to sustain us. Just as those who were fed in Galilee saw Jesus and realized who He is, we come to know Him through being fed by His Most Holy Body and Blood.

So, do you think we could squeeze 5,000 teens around the altar? I believe God would provide, so let's work on it together.

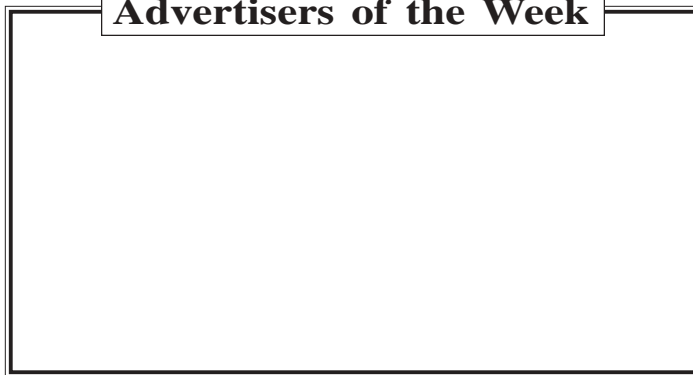


YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

July 27 Life Night: Unashamed
 July 30 Cedar Point, 6 a.m.
 July 30 Ministry Hour, 7:15 p.m.
 July 31 Pray at Abortion Clinic
 August 3 No Life Night

THANK YOU ALL WHO PROVIDED FOOD FOR OUR COOKOUT! EVERYTHING WAS FABULOUS AND MUCH APPRECIATED.

Advertisers of the Week



Please patronize the companies that support our bulletin.

WOMEN'S CARE CENTER "WCC"

The building right next door to the abortion clinic will provide real care for women and their babies. LIFETEEN will be involved with this organization in many ways. First, they need people to help clean up after the construction crews. Teens, if you want to help serve in this way, please let Cindy know. Times and days vary, so it would be when they need it and you are able.

LIFETEEN CD

Frankie, Heather and the Band are back at work on the CD. They had to delay because of Erin's surgery and other spring illnesses. But all are in good health now thanks to many prayers, and they are rehearsing for the much-anticipated release of the LIFETEEN CD.

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

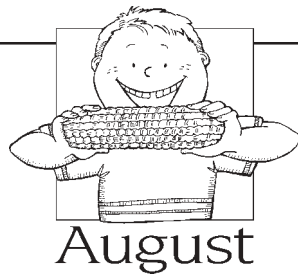
If you or someone you know would like to know more about the Catholic faith, its teachings and traditions, please call the church office at 489-3537. RCIA is an on-going process and an Inquirer can begin at any time.

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 \$134,000. Some of our parishioners, having completed their building campaign pledge, will see this as an opportunity to continue giving in support of our building.

MEDITATE WITH MARY

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

August 2	8:45 a.m.	Youth Detention Ministry
August 5	6:30 p.m.	Shepherds of Christ
August 5	6:30 p.m.	HASA
August 6	8:00 a.m.	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
August 6	6:30 p.m.	School Board
August 7	7:00 p.m.	Young Adult Core Team
August 9	9:00 a.m.	"Help A Neighbor" Drop-off
August 11	7:00 p.m.	Marriage Preparation
August 12	6:30 p.m.	Shepherds of Christ
August 13	8:00 a.m.	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
August 14	9:00 a.m.	School Registration
August 14	7:00 p.m.	Baptismal Preparation I
August 18	7:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds
August 19	6:45 a.m.	Finance Committee
August 19	6:30 p.m.	Shepherds of Christ
August 19	7:15 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting
August 20	8:00 a.m.	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
August 20	7:00 p.m.	Christ Renews His Parish Continuation Committee
August 20	9:00 a.m.	WINGS Leaders
August 20	7:00 p.m.	Baptismal Preparation II
August 25	6:30 p.m.	Jr. High Life
August 25	7:00 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Society
August 26	6:30 p.m.	Shepherds of Christ
August 26	7:00 p.m.	RCIA
August 27	8:00 a.m.	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
August 27	7:00 p.m.	Parish Nurse Meeting
August 28	7:00 p.m.	Baptismal Preparation I

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKENDS

Men's Weekend: September 6 and 7
Women's Weekend: September 20 and 21
Are you looking for a way to revitalize your faith and make new friends? Sign up for either of these Christ Renews His Parish weekends. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship. Contact Dan Floryan (489-1905) or Cheryl Cronin 485-0017 or Kathy Wright 497-0804.



KITCHEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

FOR CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKENDS

The Christ Renews His Parish Continuation Committee is looking for someone to serve as Kitchen Coordinator. This is a 3-yr. term and involves four Christ Renews His Parish weekends a year. If you feel God calling you to serve in this position, please write a letter explaining your thoughts to Harold Karp, 12019 Crossway Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46814. (You must have been on a Christ Renews weekend).

SERIOUS NEED OF ITEMS FOR FRANCISCAN CENTER

The Franciscan Center is in serious need of the following paper products to maintain their daily operation. If you can help, please drop off the following items by the west entrance of the church:

- Paper grocery bags
- Sandwich bags
- Paper Lunch bags
- Plastic handled grocery bags
- Paper Napkins

Or 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. (Front Center Door) and Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Back Door farthest from the Church). Thank you for your support and love of the needy of our great community.

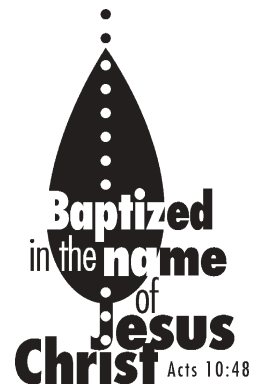


WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
OF ST.VINCENT'S PARISH

Michael and Linda Oetting, 1715 Woodland Crossing
Jong and Sung Young, 319 Beaulieu Place
Patrick Boland, 2818 Simcoe Drive
John Nolan, 10816 Millstone Drive
David and Theresa Springmann, 2810 Woodhollow Trail
Christopher and Misty Majewski, 11212 Crested Oak Court
Craig and Susan Traxler, 2121 Cimarron Pass
Barbara Bontempo, 914 Applewood Road
Joshua and Kelli Kirchner, 11228 Crested Oak Court
Robert and Robin Lister, 12026 Hampton Wood Drive
Tina Beeber, 9205 Olmston Drive
Leonard and Mercedes Hopen, 10805 Sandpiper Cove
Michelle Schneider, 8706 Gulf Dr., Apt. C
Kenneth and Linda Lozo, 3135 Woods Road
Scot and Debra Kalchbreuner, 12020 Golden Harvest
Jhonny and Beth Cifuentes, 8810 Goshawk Lane
Jeff and Joanne Carteaux, 10626 Woodfield Place

BAPTIZED DURING
THE MONTH OF JUNE

Dylan Joseph Dant, son of Daniel Junk and Amanda Dant
Matthew Raul Dunn, son of Todd Dunn and Linda Cuellar
Michael Patrick Ferchmin-Rowe, son of Matthew and Daniela (Ferchmin) Rowe
Tyler Jeep Hudson, son of Todd and Tarra (Neuman) Hudson
Matthew Phillip Neu, son of Robert and Ann (Kuntz) Neu
Katelyn Maria O'Boyle, daughter of Kathleen O'Boyle
William Gerald Reith, son of John and Sarah (Schenkel) Reith
Nathan Timothy King, son of Daniel and Melinda (Henggeleer) King
Andrew Phu Nguyen, son of Quan and Hieu (Nguyen) Nguyen
Lawrence Edward Huffman, son of Jeffrey and Amanda (Short) Huffman
Jack Allen Huffman, son of Jeffrey and Amanda (Short) Huffman
Jocelyn Rose Roth, daughter of John and Anastasia (Von Rohr) Roth
Louis Peter Schenkel, son of Peter and Vicki (Jacobs) Schenkel
Conner Owen Simpson, son of Byron and Suzanna (Brinker) Simpson
Megan Kathryn Waning, daughter of David and Amy (Bireley) Waning
Nicholas Lynn Holder, son of Troy and Kari (Rorick) Holder
Kelly Marie Connolly, daughter of Sean and Carrie (Hill) Connolly
William Joseph Gray, son of Nicholas and Ann (Przybyla) Gray
Adam Kenneth Linder, son of Troy and Molly (Gray) Linder
Colin McHale O'Shaughnessy, son of John and Debra (Thomas) O'Shaughnessy



SUMMER SCRIP SALES

Scrip sales are again available after Masses on Sundays now. The past Scrip year was an outstanding year with sales exceeding \$1.4 million and a profit of over \$88,000. In addition to the many school programs funded by Scrip profits, we were able to reimburse 242 families over \$36,000 in tuition reimbursement and donate over \$900 to help repair the organ. Thank you for your generosity.

ATTENTION ALL ST. VINCENT FOOTBALL PLAYERS



Equipment handout for all incoming 7th and 8th grade football players will be held on August 2nd at 9:30 a.m. at Miller field. 5th and 6th grade football players will have equipment handouts the following Saturday. Practice for all grades will begin August 4th at 5:30 p.m. at Miller field. As a reminder, all paperwork requirements and fees will be due prior to participating at practice. Please call Coach Fisher at 627-0250 or Coach Fiacable at 637-5977 with any questions.

CALLING ALL COACHES!

The St. Vincent's athletic director is searching for 5th and 8th grade volleyball coaches. If you are interested, please contact Paul Cassabon at 750-3011.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

Bethel Preschool still has a few openings for children who were 3 or 4 years old by July 1, 2003. Bethel is a Christian preschool located on Lima Road. Call 489-3651 for more information.

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

Saint Joseph Methodist Church, located at 6004 Reed Road, offers half-day morning Kindergarten, preschool, day care and before and after care for school age children. Call 485-4022 for information on any of these programs.

CATECHISTS SOUGHT FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

The Religious Education Program is in need of catechists for next year. Volunteers are needed to instruct children in the Catholic faith. Pray about your involvement in our program. You must be a practicing Catholic and have a desire to share your love for children and the faith. Consider taking on a class with a partner. Phone 489-3537 Ext. 204 and ask for Beth.

Share God's
Word



Religious Education
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Children presently enrolled in Religious Education in grades 1-7 will automatically be advanced to the next grade level. Please notify the Religious Education office of withdrawals or changes in phone numbers or addresses.

Parents, watch the bulletin during the summer for beginning dates for Religious Education next fall. Expect classes to resume mid-September.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR FIRST COMMUNION PICTURES

First Communion pictures for Religious Education students are available in the church office from 8:30 - 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. If you can only pick up the pictures on the weekend, please phone 489-3537 and ask that your pictures be placed on the table near the penny bank in the Gathering Space.

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!

SALESPERSON NEEDED

For door-to-door sales year-round for Peerless Dry Cleaner. We offer a FREE pick-up service and we want to spread the word! This individual would work from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays. A great part-time job. Sales will be concentrated on the north side of Fort Wayne as well as the southwest side. The wage is \$8 per hour plus a bonus for each active customer once they have contacted/used our services. Peerless shirts/identification badge provided. Call Lana Tuesdays or Thursdays at 422-9374 Ext. 326.

PART-TIME NURSE POSITION

Focus on Health has an opening for a part-time nurse. This person would coordinate their student health education program. If interested, please call 481-4864.



Events for
SENIORS

SENIOR INFORMATION FAIR – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

If you want to have a choice, you need to have a plan. Learn what's new at the FREE Senior Information Fair at the Community Center, 233 West Main Street, Fort Wayne, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Speaker topics will be Protecting Senior Rights, Legal/Financial Planning, Caregiver How-To's, Medicare Updates & Rx Drug Assistance, Medication Management, Tips for Senior Mobility and Exercise, Housing Choices As We Age, and Memory and Aging.

PART-TIME CHILDCARE NEEDED

Expecting twins in September. Also have toddlers, one and two years old. Part-time with flexible hours. Call Lisa at 637-3509.

SPECIAL NEEDS AIDE WANTED

Full-time aide needed for 2nd grader with special needs for the 2003-04 school year. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Training provided. If interested, please call 637-6008.

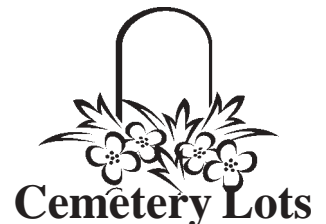


ST. VINCENT MEN'S CLUB GOLF OUTING

The Men's Club golf outing will be held on August 30, 2003 at Colonial Oaks Golf course. For team sign up or hole sponsorship, call Todd Martin at 637-9718.

CEMETERY LOTS AVAILABLE

Two cemetery spaces at Covington Memorial Garden "Garden of Last Supper" are for sale. Going price currently is \$825/per space. Any reasonable offer will be considered. Please contact Sherry Miller at the parish office - 489-3537 Ext. 209.



TWO CEMETERY PLOTS

For sale two cemetery plots in Highland Park's Catholic section. Asking \$1,000. Contact church office.

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM A HOPE CENTER

Is there a special dish that you are known for? Would you be willing to make a large quantity to support A Hope Center Pregnancy & Relational Resources on August 2? It would be a great opportunity for a number of individuals to collaborate on, and the cost is tax deductible as a material donation. We are in need of at least one main dish, two side dishes, and one dessert to feed 200 guests. Please call Elisa at 422-3544 or Maurine Gensheimer at 489-8397 for more information.

HOPE CENTER'S GOLF FORE LIFE

A Hope Center Pregnancy & Relational Resources is organizing its first annual Golf Fore Life on August 2, 2003, at Riverbend Golf Club on St. Joe Center Road. You can partner with us in the expansion of our services through satellites and free ultrasounds to clients! Entry fee is \$75 per player, which includes green fees, golf cart, and lunch. Call 422-3544 or send your entry fee to 3030 Lake Avenue, Suite 20, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. Registration is at 7 a.m. with shotgun start at 8 a.m. Registration deadline is July 30, 2003.

IN A FEW MINUTES, YOU CAN SAVE BLOOD

It can be done on your way to work, while you read the morning paper, or even during your lunch break. It only takes a few minutes to save a life. Yet only 5% of the eligible population currently gives blood. With continuing blood shortages, the American Red Cross and your community need your support. If you are at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in good general health, you may be eligible to donate blood. Please donate at your company, in your community or call the American Red Cross to find a blood donation location near you. For more information or to schedule your blood donation appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543).



LET'S SPREAD SOME PEANUT BUTTER!!!

We are collecting jars of peanut butter for the Franciscan Center. Please help us by dropping off your donation in the box near the west doors of the Gathering Space. Any questions, please call Mary Nielson at 489-7692. I will be collecting until the end of July. THANK YOU!

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.



CRAFT BOUTIQUE SPACE AVAILABLE

The Most Precious Blood Rosary Society is renting table(s) now for the November 1, 2003 Christmas Craft Boutique. For choice position place, rent your table(s) now. For more information, call Millie at 422-8766, Teresa 385-4565, or Jeannette at 422-5870.

ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH FRY

The Knights of Columbus, Council 451, 601 Reed Road, Fort Wayne, is sponsoring their monthly All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry on Friday, August 1st, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 if under 12. Menu includes fish, cole slaw, scalloped potatoes and drink. All are welcome.

ENJOY A SUMMER CHICKEN BARBECUE

The Bishop Dwenger Show Choir is planning a chicken barbecue on Saturday, August 2, 2003 at the Kroger Parking Lot located on Dupont Road. It will run from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. with proceeds benefiting the Bishop Dwenger Choir.



Is living together before marriage OK?

Dear Padre,

Some of my Catholic friends are living together before marriage. They say they are going through a tryout period before committing for life. I see them at Mass each week, since a large group of us attend an evening Mass in our parish and socialize afterwards. I'm just wondering if it is OK to live together before marriage.

An inquiring Catholic

Dear Inquiring,

Many Catholics give a variety of reasons for living together outside marriage. Like your friends, some see it as a trial marriage, to help them decide if they are right for each other. Others say it is simply a matter of economics as they try to save money before the wedding. Some never thought it was a problem. But it is more than just a problem. Living together before marriage is a serious sin, and unless the couple is willing to live separately they should exclude themselves from receiving Eucharist. Let me explain why.

Almost half the marriages today end in divorce. Given that statistic, couples planning to be married need an enormous amount of support and preparation before entering into marriage. It might seem that living together before marriage would help a couple decide whether or not it will work. But such reasoning is flawed. Christian marriage is first and foremost about unity - real unity, not pretend unity. In marriage two people unconditionally serve and help each other, and in that way they mirror the relationship Jesus has with us. Without a vow of commitment, we pretend to be what we are not. How can a couple build a life together when each knows the other is pretending, no matter how sincere the pretense may be?

When I was ordained, a wise old parishioner told me that even though I was now ordained a priest, I had to start becoming a priest. It is a process, not an instant achievement. It is the same with marriage. A couple does not need to live together to prepare for marriage. On their wedding day they will be married, and from that day forward they must start becoming husband and wife. There is much they will learn that they did not know about each other and themselves, but that knowledge does not signal whether or not the marriage will work. The strength of the fidelity of their commitment to each other will make the difference. Such strength cannot rely on pretension. It is risk and trial, grace and gift. Those characteristics can only grow when both persons commit themselves without reservation and without an escape clause.

The Padre

Father William J. Parker, C.Ss.R