



PAX CHRISTI NEWS

Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie April 2015

PAX CHRISTI OUTSIDE SPACES

A Call for
Community
Input

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COME TO THE WATER.

Attend Triduum Liturgies at Pax Christi. Page 6



PAX CHRISTI

Catholic Community

12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208
Phone: 952-941-3150 Website: www.paxchristi.com

Office Hours

Monday–Friday 8:00am–4:30pm

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Nursery available at all weekend Masses.
Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.

Weekday Masses

Mondays 8:30am
Tuesdays 8:30am with Rosary to follow
Wednesdays 6:00pm
Thursdays 6:45am
Fridays 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

Saturdays 4:00–4:30pm

The Pax Christi News is printed monthly by the Church of Pax Christi of Eden Prairie. We accept unsolicited manuscripts and photos from parishioners, but reserve the right to edit and publish such material at our discretion. Email submissions, photos, and/or questions to Melissa Nault, Communications Specialist, mnault@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7221. All contributions become the property of Pax Christi Catholic Community.



Before I Forget
by Fr. Bill Murtaugh



Paschal Triduum

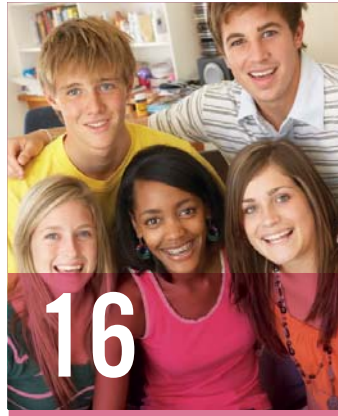


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psst, tear this page out!



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BEFORE I FORGET...



Fr. Bill Murtaugh
Pastor

**YOUR WILL,
NOT MINE, BE DONE.**

—MATTHEW 26:39

FRANCISCAN Father Richard Rohr has said, “The essence of pain is when I am not in control.” An important and often challenging part of parish ministry is connected with death: visiting the sick and dying, funerals, and helping the grieving. Many people say, “I want to die before I become a burden to anyone.” It sounds very altruistic. But if we think about those words, what is really being said sometimes is: “I want to die before I lose control.” Lose control of what? Of anything — my arms and legs, my ability to make my own decisions, to come and go as I please, my mind, my memory, my eyesight, my hearing, my bowels.

Losing control is frightening if all we see is what we are losing or leaving behind. Most of us will have to surrender something important to us, and all of us will surrender our lives one day. Surrendering becomes easier if we have hope. Think about a caterpillar. By surrendering its “caterpillarness,” the caterpillar becomes a beautiful butterfly. What looks like an end to life was a transformation into a brand new life. That is why the caterpillar is often used as a symbol for resurrection and new life.

Our Christian faith invites us to see that our physical death is not simply a separation of the body and spirit passively endured but a free act of

handing ourselves over to God, just as Jesus did on His Good Friday. Of course, there is anxiety about death and a keen sense of sadness over the death of our loved ones.

Throughout our lives we will lose control; we will be asked to surrender. The center of Christian spirituality is **ACCEPTANCE**. It is the key to living the Christian life. No doubt all of us, at some time in our lives, have wanted something that we never received, leaving us emotionally sad and even depressed. The virtue of acceptance is fundamental to life for all human beings. Acceptance means embracing what is, rather than wishing for what is not. When we can accept this painful reality, we can move beyond the pain and open ourselves to experience life more deeply. As we learn to accept what is, we become at peace and begin to see our lives from a more balanced perspective. We grow from the life lessons that acceptance brings —to discern what we can change and that which we cannot. When we accept our shortcomings and those of others, we can embrace our inner strengths.

I am a firm believer that all of us can grow as Christians by learning and living The Twelve Steps. The Big Book of AA states that “Acceptance is the answer.” Acceptance is learned

through humility and surrender. It grows out of our admission and acceptance of defeat and powerlessness, Step 1. This leads us to accept spiritual help, Step 2. In Step 3 we accept our powerlessness beyond alcohol and our total dependence on God and seek to accept what we cannot change and turn it over to God. In Step 4 we come to accept the past, ourselves, and others. In Step 5 we admit what we find in our personal inventory, the wrongs in us, and the wrongs we’ve done to others, and we accept guidance and direction from God and another human being.

In Step 9 we accept the reality that there are things we cannot repair, that our amends may be rejected, and that though God will forgive, others may not. With Step 12 we extend the practice of acceptance to all our affairs so that in time we may come to accept failure without despair, success without pride, all the joys of life with gratitude, and all its trials and tribulations with courage and serenity.

Full acceptance is difficult to achieve. Many of us have trouble accepting the crosses of life: suffering, failure, sickness, the death of loved ones. At times we are incapable of seeing blessings and graces because of cynicism or depression. The proud have trouble accepting faults, failings, limitations, and



sins. Those with poor self-esteem cannot recognize virtues, accomplishments, and successes.

The Christian virtue of acceptance helps us to submit to the will of God, a fundamental option for good over evil, to take up our cross and follow Jesus, and to acknowledge the Spirit as the source of all good gifts. Acceptance helps us recognize ourselves as social, interdependent beings who find our fulfillment in serving others. Acceptance helps us stay focused and active in the real world with its mixture of grace and sin, good and evil, joys and sorrows, hopes and frustrations, accomplishments and defeats. It is opposed to cheap grace, easy answers, idealistic plans, weak passivity, and all forms of escapism.

To cultivate the virtue of acceptance, we Christians instinctively turn to Jesus Christ for guidance and strength. Jesus was totally committed to doing the will of God and to working for the cause of humanity. Throughout His public life, He

refused to take the easy way out. He lived His life by doing good day by day. When He realized He was in mortal danger, He prayed alone in the garden that this "cup of suffering" would pass Him by but then added a memorable statement of acceptance: "Not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Strengthened by prayer, Jesus took up His cross, providing His disciples throughout the ages with motivation for accepting the difficult task of spreading the reign of justice and peace in the world. Jesus trusted God and nourished that trust by regular and consistent prayer.

Acceptance is not only a virtue but absolutely necessary for real spiritual growth. As many of us struggle with a lack of patience, acceptance is a form of patience — patience with God, self, and circumstances. Ultimately, acceptance is an expression of love, for love is patient, and one expression of patience is acceptance.

Learning to accept one's self is one of the most difficult tasks

we will ever accomplish. We must learn to accept our own unique personality, strengths, and skills. Excuse me if I sound like Mr. Rogers here, but it's true that there is no one like you. You are special and irreplaceable in God's eyes. Learning to accept, treasure, and even love who you are is difficult. However, this is what God does. God loves you. God treasures, cherishes, adores, and desires you. You are unique to God and uniquely loved by God.

Even though we agree with this on an intellectual level, we find it difficult to accept who we are because of our faults, weaknesses, and limitations. At times; we are disgusted with ourselves. But acceptance is not selective. We must learn to accept our own inadequacies as well as our strengths. If we don't like being with ourselves, how is it that we ask another to do that for us? The capacity to be with ourselves as we really are, finite, imperfect, and deeply flawed, will prove not only to be the cure for loneliness but our secret gift to others as well.

Yes, life can be a burden. We did not ask to exist. We had no choice in the matter. Yet, here we are. We must constantly remind ourselves that existence is the gift! True acceptance is a courageous, risky act of faith. It is an active act of surrender to God. Acceptance begins with accepting that the goal of life is not comfort but being like Christ.

We are now commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We, too, must learn to accept pain, suffering, and risks in order to achieve our greatest goal — communion with God.

SERENITY PRAYER

GOD GRANT ME THE
SERENITY TO ACCEPT THE
THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE;
COURAGE TO CHANGE
THE THINGS I CAN;
AND WISDOM TO
KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

LIVING ONE DAY AT A TIME;
ENJOYING ONE
MOMENT AT A TIME;
ACCEPTING HARDSHIPS AS
THE PATHWAY TO PEACE;

TAKING, AS HE DID,
THIS SINFUL WORLD
AS IT IS, NOT
AS I WOULD HAVE IT;

TRUSTING THAT HE WILL
MAKE ALL THINGS RIGHT
IF I SURRENDER TO HIS WILL;

THAT I MAY BE REASONABLY
HAPPY IN THIS LIFE
AND SUPREME
HAPPY WITH HIM
FOREVER IN THE NEXT.
AMEN.





PASCHAL TRIDUUM

THE WORD PASCHAL comes from the Hebrew words for Passover. Passover is the name given to the celebration of the event from the book of Exodus in which the angel of death “passed over” the houses of the Israelites, houses that had lamb’s blood on the doorways. The angel of death entered the houses of the Egyptians and killed the first born son. In this way, the Egyptian Pharaoh was finally persuaded to release the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt.

Christians call Jesus the new Passover lamb, or Paschal Lamb, who gave up His life to save us from the slavery of sin. Thus paschal has also come to mean of or pertaining to Easter.

The word **TRIDUUM** is Latin for “three days.” The Triduum consists of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. It is four days unless you take a more ancient view of what constitutes a day. These days begin at sunset on Thursday and end at sunset on Sunday. It is a three day remembrance of events from the life of Jesus.

We are not experiencing a biographical play about Jesus. We do not pretend to be with Him at the Last Supper. We are not walking along the Way of the Cross trying to imagine what Jesus’ suffering was like. We are not visiting the empty tomb. We celebrate what happened, but what is happening now is even more important.

We celebrate mystery, not history. We are remembering what Jesus did using something called Anamnesis. *Anamnesis*, a word that consists of the prefix “an” and the word “amnesia,” is the opposite of *amnesia*. We are doing a particular type of remembering here. We do not just have fond memories of what God has done for us through Christ 2,000 years ago. We are remembering in such a manner that the past, present, and future come together. The death and resurrection of Jesus are not just past events. The effects of His death and resurrection are present today and will be present at the Second Coming of Christ in the future.

It is what we call the “mystery of faith” or the “**PASCHAL MYSTERY**,” the term used for the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus into heaven. It is the mystery of our salvation through Christ.

We remember the saving plan of God in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. If we believe that Christ gave His life for us, what kind of relationship should we have with Christ throughout the week? If we follow in Christ’s footsteps, how are we called to lay down our lives for those around us? How do we help make the Paschal Mystery a living reality today?

THE RITUALS AND SYMBOLS OF HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2

MASS AT 7:00PM

PRESENTING THE OILS

Oils blessed by the archbishop at this year's Chrism Mass are presented to the community for use in sacraments and other prayer. There are three oils. The Oil of the Sick is used in the Sacrament of the Sick to anoint people who are ill or who are dying. The Oil of the Catechumens is used to anoint those who are preparing to be baptized. Holy Chrism is used in Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, and the Dedication of a Church and an Altar.

WASHING FEET

Jesus gives His apostles a command at the Last Supper in the Gospel of John. Jesus washes the feet of those present and tells them to wash one another's feet. We follow that command by washing another's feet and allowing someone else to wash our feet.

At the time of Jesus, the host of a banquet would provide basin and water for people to wash their hands before the meal. The host might also provide for the guests to wash their own feet, dirty from traveling. But the host would not wash the feet of the guests. Only slaves would wash another person's feet. Jesus said, "You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I therefore, the master and teacher have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

The model Jesus gives us is one of being a servant to others. As we read later on in the Gospel of John, "There is no greater love than to lay down your life for a friend." Jesus, the Lamb of God, the servant of all, gains victory over sin and death by giving up His life for us.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Eucharist which was consecrated at the Holy Thursday Mass is taken in a solemn procession to "an altar of repose" in our daily Mass chapel. This Eucharist is ready to be used as Viaticum for the sick as no Masses will be celebrated until the Easter Vigil. The chapel will be open until 10:00 PM for private prayer for those who wish to answer the call, "Could you not, then, watch one hour with me?" (Matt 26:40).

PREPARE FOR MASS by reading John 13:1-15. Ask yourself in what ways are you a servant of Christ? Pray about what and who you serve and who serves you. Think about the place the Eucharist holds in your life.



THE RITUALS AND SYMBOLS OF GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3

**LIVING STATIONS AT 3:00PM AND 5:00PM
CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION AT 7:00PM**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE PASSION OF JESUS

Last Sunday, we heard the Passion story from the Gospel of St. Mark. Today we hear the Passion story from St. John. St. John makes it clear that Jesus is a true King who is fulfilling the prophecies in Scripture and whose glory is the cross. Jesus is in control, allowing Himself to be arrested and questioned and killed because His "hour had come." A few days before the Last Supper, Jesus said to His disciples, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

VENERATING THE CROSS

"This is the wood of the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world. Come let us worship." These words begin the part of the service in which we give reverence to the cross of Christ. Many people might think it odd that we honor an instrument of torture and death, but this veneration is an example of the paradox that we celebrate. The cross did not bring about a pointless, tragic end to a person's life. The cross is the sign of Christ's triumph. His self-offering and love won a victory over sin and death.

On this day, we are not reliving the passion and death of Jesus; through the Church's ritual, we are pondering the meaning of His passion and death for our lives today. We are not scrutinizing the details of Jesus' suffering and, being filled with guilt, coming forward in sorrow. We are instead filled with gratitude because through the cross Jesus redeemed the world.

PREPARE FOR THESE SERVICES

by prayerfully meditating on John 18:1-19:42. Compare the details with the Passion of Mark we heard on Palm Sunday. Reflect on what crosses you have carried in your life and whether you also experienced a resurrection moment for each cross. What does it mean to be living out your baptismal call, answering these words of Jesus: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mt 16:24).



CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.

THE RITUALS AND SYMBOLS OF THE EASTER VIGIL, APRIL 4

MASS AT 8:00PM

LIGHTING A FIRE

We begin in darkness. A fire pierces the darkness, and from it we light the "Paschal" or Easter Candle. This candle represents the light of Christ as He conquered death and the darkness of sin. It will be used at baptisms and funerals throughout the year. We spread this light to one another as we hold candles and remember and rejoice in the saving acts of God as heard in the Easter Proclamation or Exsultet.

"This is the night!" we proclaim, not "that was the night." **THIS IS THE NIGHT.** In this mystery of faith we celebrate, time does not hinder us from actually taking part in the mystery. **THIS IS THE NIGHT** for our broken world to be made whole. **THIS IS THE NIGHT** when all creation is reordered, joining voices to praise Christ—the light no darkness can overcome.

TELLING OUR STORY

We have more readings than usual this night as we recall many stories of God's action throughout salvation history. In Mark's Gospel we hear of an angel who says, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; He is not here."

BAPTIZING WITH WATER

Water has many levels of meaning. Water refreshes us and gives life to plants, animals, and people. Water cleanses us and washes away dirt and grime. Water offers us recreation in this "Land of 10,000 Lakes." But water has another side. Water erodes, water destroys, water floods, and water can even take life away.

The water used in baptism means all of these things: we die to our old life of sin, and we rise to new life in Christ, refreshed, cleansed, and re-created. As we pray for those who are baptized this night, we remember our own baptismal waters, and we renew our commitment to live in Christ.



ANOINTING WITH OIL

Those baptized or confirmed will be anointed with the oil of Chrism. There are many kinds of oil: motor oil, heating oil, cooking oil, lamp oil, baby oil, and others. Chrism is perfumed olive oil. In the dry and rough land of the Bible, this kind of oil was used for healing, much in the same way we use body lotion on cracked skin today. Anointing someone with oil is an ancient practice that set the person apart for a special life mission.

We are anointed to share in the work of Christ as priest, prophet, and king. Our priestly ministry calls us to celebrate our faith in community prayer; our prophetic ministry is to proclaim God's word wherever we may be; and our kingly ministry is to be stewards of creation, caring for all that God has given us.

EATING AND DRINKING THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS

As at every Mass, we join in the Eucharistic feast and dine at the Lord's Table. The "rich fare" promised by Isaiah is shared by this community of believers. Together, all partake of bread that has been broken just as Jesus' body was broken in His suffering and death. That broken bread becomes the Body of Christ. We partake of wine that has been poured out just as Jesus' blood was poured out at Calvary. That poured wine becomes the Blood of Christ. We become what we have eaten and drunk; we become the Body and Blood of Christ for the world.

PREPARE FOR MASS by reflecting on the meaning of these titles for Jesus: Light of the World; Word of God; Living Water; Bread of Life. These titles refer to the four parts of the Vigil.

BLESSING THE EASTER FOOD: HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4, NOON

The custom of bringing Easter food to the church for a blessing began in Eastern Europe, was brought to the United States by immigrants, and has become more increasingly mainstream. A decorated basket containing a sampling of the foods to be eaten for Easter dinner is blessed on Holy Saturday. Some of the traditional foods are:

- A round loaf of Easter bread, usually decorated with a cross of dough, symbolizing Christ, the True Bread
- Ham or sausage representing the overabundance of God's mercy and generosity
- Brightly decorated hard-boiled eggs representing new life and Resurrection
- Butter shaped into a figure of a lamb or small cross as a reminder of Christ
- Salt for flavor as a reminder of a Christian's duty to others

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

MASSES AT 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM

In addition to Masses in the main worship space, there will be Masses in Nazareth Hall at 9:00am and 11:00am

We continue to celebrate the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. We remember our baptism by being sprinkled with holy water. We renew our baptismal promises. We sing, "Jesus Christ is risen **TODAY**" because we are not just remembering something that happened a long time ago. The resurrection of Jesus has meaning in our lives today. As we reflect on what it means for us today, we renew ourselves to live a Christian life.

PREPARE FOR MASS by reflecting on your understanding of the significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus. How have you experienced Jesus' resurrection – breaking the chains of sin and death – in your own life or in someone else's life.



PARISHIONER NEWS

FEBRUARY BAPTISMS

Declan Thomas Gallagher	2/8/2015
Isabella Jane Medina	2/8/2015
Violet Marie Sheldon	2/8/2015
Charlotte Savanh Thammavongsa	2/15/2015

FEBRUARY WEDDING

Katherine Powell and Samuel Eicher 2/14/2015

FEBRUARY FUNERAL

Joseph Irving Lowery 2/25/2015

FEBRUARY NEW MEMBERS

Cathy Anderson
 Nick and Megan Dahlen
 Jasbir and Arpita Fernandes
 Jinishton Fernando and Georgitta Mel
 Katherine Hall
 Raymond Myers
 Peter Nganga
 Joseph and Vicki Orehek
 Jennifer and Michael Shinnars
 Nash and Anna Simet
 Christina and Matthew Taylor
 Matthew Toporski & Amy Schroeder
 Danielle Trovato
 Larry and Jane Wellens



GRACING LIFE WITH THE POWER OF STORY

MY FATHER was a veteran of the Vietnam era. Growing up I didn't remember many stories of his experience from his six-month stint in the army. All I was told is that he was a class E5 Sergeant who came home wounded, shot in the chest, his left knee, and full of shrapnel from stepping on a land mine while leading his patrol through the Vietnam jungle. His short experience left him wounded for life with scars that were both emotional and physical.

All this was before he had met my mother at Normandale Community College. I can only imagine what my mother's



parents would have thought when as a 21-year old college student, she brought home a 28-year old wounded war vet. I quickly learned that many of my father's experiences overseas were ones that he either didn't want to relive or were moments he felt weren't fitting for his kids. Usually he would brush the questions of my twin brother and me aside. He would give simple one-liner answers to questions like "What was the war like?" by responding "Once the first bullet flies past your head, all the politics go right out the window" and answering my softer approach of "How were the army camps?" with a grin saying, "Always make friends with the cook."

It wasn't until I was in my teen years in about 2000 that my father decided it was about time to share his stories. We realized that under Chapter 35, my older sister qualified for some education benefits through

Veteran's Affairs. Through this discovery, my father found out about free counseling services with the VA.

From the first week my father met counselor Joe Moody (yes, that is his real name), my father was upbeat and smiling at dinnertime. He realized that he was allowed to feel proud about his service. He realized that the conflicted emotions which came from actions he was ordered to take as a soldier were common and did not make him any less of a man or role model for his children. He also found that his story had value and lessons worth sharing.

After just months with his therapist, my father connected with the local VFW to share stories and meet other veterans. Suddenly, he realized that veterans had a presence in the community and were proud. He served in 21-gun salutes on Veteran's Day; he touted our

educational benefits for college as something both he and his family earned. Finally, he ran and was elected Commander of our local VFW in 2002.

In 2003, my father Glenn Earl Morcomb II, died of a heart attack the day after a terminal diagnosis of cancer. In just three short years, he found his voice. Through the courage to share his story, he rediscovered his pride and purpose in life, he became active in the community, and I also remember him giving lots more hugs to his kids. While it hurts to know that it took so long for him to share his story, I like to imagine that his last years were among the most alive he has ever felt. My father's story is part of my own, and I continue to share it as it keeps him close to me.

Currently, I facilitate grief support groups at the school where I work because I've learned that students who hide their stories often feel isolated, scared, and alone. As people of faith who follow the stories of our God, it is important to take the time to share our story with those around us, too. We are not alone; we are together, united through Christ.

At Pax Christi, we have a group of caring, listening, and gentle men and women called Companion Ministers, trained parishioners who are skilled in allowing the truth of one's stories to be heard, respected, and honored. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from this kind of caring presence, contact Jane Schmitz, Dir. of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7238 or jschmitz@paxchristi.com.
Written by Joe Morcomb, Pastoral Care Council Member

MAKE YOUR FUTURE HEALTHCARE DECISIONS

APRIL 16, 2015, is National Healthcare Decisions Day (www.nhdd.org.) The purpose of this day is to help all adults *understand that making future healthcare decisions includes much more than deciding what care they would or would not want; it starts with expressing preferences, clarifying values, identifying care preferences, and selecting an agent to express healthcare decisions if patients are unable to speak for themselves.* Advance Care Planning involves learning about treatment options, thinking about your values, talking about your decisions and documenting these wishes. An important step is selecting healthcare agents (primary and alternate) who understand your values, wishes, and goals for medical treatment and would be able to follow them. Honoring Choices (www.honoringchoices.org) and Five Wishes (www.agingwithdignity.org) are healthcare directives; their websites contain resources to assist with this planning. Honoring Choices also has a short form, often used by young adults, to begin this process by naming healthcare agents and then over time developing a more detailed document.

Completing and sharing this document is a gift for you and your loved ones so that they are not required to make healthcare decisions based on what they “think” you might want. The Conversation Project (www.theconversationproject.org) has a starter kit to assist with this dialog so your wishes are expressed and respected. Copies of your signed, dated, and witnessed health care directive should be given to your healthcare agent, doctor, family/friends; keep the original accessible (not in a bank box or safe).

Consider taking time this month to create or review your healthcare directive. Discuss your values and beliefs with loved ones so they understand your wishes if you cannot speak for yourself. If you have questions or would like assistance with advanced care planning, please contact Ann Dunagan, Parish Nurse, 952-405-7200, or adunagan@paxchristi.com.



BOOMERS AND BEYOND RETREAT COMING IN MAY!

PAX CHRISTI'S BOOMERS AND BEYOND invites all seniors of the parish to our annual retreat, co-sponsored with the Young at Heart senior group at the Church of St. Edward. The retreat will be held Tuesday, May 12 at Pax Christi, and feature noted speakers from the Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake, Brother Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., and Kris Joseph, parishioner and spiritual director at the Center. Brother Bob has served as Retreat Director of Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center since 2007. Besides his 24 years in retreat ministry, he has worked in publishing as well as serving as Friary Administrator in Washington, DC. Kris is a spiritual director and licensed psychologist with a private practice out of Carondelet Spirituality Center, and has served on the staff at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center since 1998. Kris is interested in the deep connection that we each have with God.

The retreat theme, “Seasoned Spirituality,” will guide participants on making space for ourselves and for God, and creating balance in our lives. Boomers members can enjoy this event free as part of your yearly membership. Non-members are encouraged to attend for a fee of \$15 per person, with reservation and payment in advance. The day will begin at 8:30am with Mass, followed by a continental breakfast and retreat, with lunch at the conclusion of the event. Both members and non-members must register, either online at www.paxchristi.com or by calling the RSVP line at 952-405-7251 by Monday, May 4. Questions? Call Jane Schmitz, 952-405-7238.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: HOSPITALITY FOR ACTION IN FAITH

THE PARISH SIGN on the corner of Pioneer Trail and Homeward Hills proclaims, "All Are Welcome," a statement of our central, sacred value of hospitality. We not only welcome each other as members of this community, but we are called to welcome our guests and to share the gifts God has given us.

Hospitality finds expression in our Sunday worship. We gather as a community of believers and nourish each other when we recognize the presence of Christ in the assembly. We are nourished in the Word proclaimed and in the spiritual food we receive in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. With this nourishment, we are sent forth to share holy hospitality in the world around us.

Hospitality in the form of food forms a significant part of our parish ministry outreach. People must be able to eat! In this land of plenty, it is unconscionable that babies, children, families, and elders do not have enough to eat. People should not have to decide between food and rent or food and medicine. It seems pertinent to consider the Pax Christi hospitality in action and remind all members of the importance of participating in these ministries.

BURGUNDY BAGS - This weekly collection of food supports the food shelves at PROP here in Eden Prairie and the Franciscan Brothers of Peace in St. Paul. In the seasons of Advent and Lent, we highlight the need by making it more visible at Masses. Hopefully, this reminder strengthens our participation throughout the whole year.

LOAVES & FISHES - Each month two very dedicated groups prepare and serve a meal for those who have no other place to go to eat. One is served at the Loaves & Fishes site at St. Stephen's Church in Minneapolis. The other is served at Catholic Charities Dorothy Day site in St. Paul. Not only do guests receive food for their bodies, they are also treated to the warmth and care of Pax Christi hospitality. Some of the volunteers have been serving for over 25 years!

CROPS FOR PROP - 2015 marks the fourth year for the "Crops for PROP" garden project. Parish volunteers plant and maintain a large garden on the west side of the grounds. Last year over 1,000 pounds of produce was harvested! This is a great volunteer project for people of all ages and experience (and no experience).

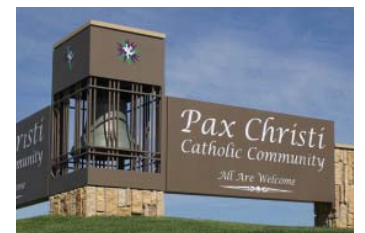
ST. STEPHEN'S SHELTER MEAL - Every month a rotating group of people takes a meal prepared at Pax Christi to the St. Stephen's Human Services shelter. The volunteers get time to visit with shelter residents and learn a bit about their stories and who they are as people. Together they try to create a sense of home in the reality of homelessness.

MEALS ON WHEELS - Pax Christi has volunteers who bring communion to those not able to gather with the community for Sunday Mass because they are not able to leave their homes. The Body of Christ is brought to members not able to participate around the table of the Lord. Similarly, through the Meals on Wheels program, Pax Christi volunteers bring meals to those not able to leave their home due to advanced years, illness, rehab, or recovery from medical procedures. The program is now merged with the program in Bloomington, and Pax Christi serves as a drop-site for the route drivers in the Eden Prairie area.

THANKSGIVING MEALS - The 12 Baskets Ministry of Pax Christi coordinates the collection and distribution of full meals during the annual Thanksgiving Meal Appeal. The ingredients for hundreds of meals are as-

sembled so families in need can participate in the tradition of preparing and serving a meal of dignity as we pause as a nation to give thanks. This effort also collects and distributes grocery gift cards so families can purchase a turkey and other perishables. Individuals and families who donate often remark that it is part of their giving thanks that they share with others so they might give thanks together.

The sacred meal at Sunday Mass provides an essential example for the rest of our week. There are many opportunities to imitate the hospitality of Jesus. Whether we are gathered for Mass, the Sunday night faith formation meal, for a cup of coffee and a donut on Sunday after Mass, or around our table at home, we are nourished by Christ, by community, and called to share this nourishment in service of the world around us. *Written by Michael Griffin, Director of Justice and Faith Formation.*



“CROPS FOR PROP” GARDEN PROJECT GETTING READY FOR ACTION

A GOOD winter’s rest restores the energy and dispositions both the earth and her care-takers need to share life and prepare for a season long relationship that leads to a bountiful harvest. The “Crops for PROP” Garden project is getting ready to provide fresh produce for the PROP food shelf serving our local community. Last year well over 1,000 pounds were harvested and donated. In addition, parish members brought produce from home gardens and donated to PROP as well.

Planning meetings will be held later in April. Planting parties will take place in early-mid May. Watch for detailed announcements in future parish communications, or call the parish office for more information. You may also sign-up to volunteer at www.paxchristi.com/propgarden. No gardening experience is necessary. There are options for one-time, weekly, and season long opportunities to help. Families are welcome too.

Think Spring! Think Summer Gardening! Think Crops for PROP!



PAX CHRISTI’S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE MINISTRY

AS THE LAND in our area wakes up from the long winter hibernation, the Environmental Challenge Ministry is planning a number of activities for this spring.

APRIL 8 AND 15 BIRD OUTINGS: Beginning at 8:30am. Dress accordingly, bring binoculars, and bird books if you can. If you are interested but these days don’t work for you, let us know, and we can add a Saturday or Sunday. To RSVP or for more information, contact parishioner Peg Musegades, pegmusegades@gmail.com, or the parish office, 952-941-3150.

APRIL 24 ARBOR DAY: Be inspired to plant a tree, or if that doesn’t work, at least hug a tree. Take a moment to consider all the goodness we receive from the creation of trees. They provide shade, habitat, food, and beauty to cities, towns, and acreage.

Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk, poet, and activist, says, “By reading the scriptures I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a purer cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God and I feel fire and music under my feet.”

THE TREASURE OF JUSTICE GRANTS NEEDS TIME AND TALENT, TOO!

PAX CHRISTI calls members to Stewardship as a way of life and to share resources of time, talent, and treasure even in uncertain economic times. Since its founding, a portion of the Sunday collection has been set aside for grants to organizations and groups working to address issues and concerns in line with the social mission of the Church. The task of evaluating grant requests and prioritizing issues is carried out in the name of the parish by the Justice Grants Board. The two main goals of this effort are

- 1) Ending homelessness and
- 2) education and child development to alleviate poverty.

Just over \$100,000 in grants has been distributed this year. The justice grants board has a liaison to each funded organization. Part of their responsibility is to surface opportunities for Pax Christi members to volunteer with the recipient groups. Many of the opportunities go unfilled. There is no better time to get connected with a grant recipient than right now. The Lenten call to share with those in need is leading us to celebrate the joy of the resurrection at Easter. New life calls us to new challenges and to share the Good News. Share your time and talent today! Go to www.paxchristi.com or call the parish office.

SWEET APRIL SHOWERS
DO SPRING MAY
FLOWERS.
—THOMAS TUSSER, 1557

WORDS FROM THE
MOUTH OF THE WISE
WIN FAVOR, BUT
THE LIPS OF FOOLS
CONSUME THEM. THE
BEGINNING OF THEIR
WORDS IS FOLLY, AND
THE END OF THEIR TALK
IS UTTER MADNESS.
—ECCLESIASTES 10:12-13



BETWEEN FOOLS AND SHOWERS – FINDING THE STEWARDSHIP BALANCE IN APRIL

APRIL is renowned for wildly unpredictable weather; a day may start sunny, switch to rain showers, and finish off with a snowstorm. We Minnesotans know enough to remember in April to be patient – if we don't like the weather, just wait a bit, and in a little while, we may get something else more to our liking. Perhaps that is why April 1st was an easy pick for Fool's Day celebrations. Why not dedicate a day in April to pull the wool over someone else when Mother Nature is enjoying creating weather havoc? By April, many of us are more than ready to change gears, break out of the winter wardrobe, and get outside and enjoy spring. Although April weather is unpredictable at best and many find it hard to face one more "last" snowfall, hope of spring prevails when the late season snow falls don't quite cover the crocus and tulip sprouts. It's interesting that the "April showers bringing May flowers" verbiage was actually

written over 450 years ago. We have been asking for some patience and a reason to be optimistic for a long, long time.

All sorts of things change with the arrival of spring. You see your neighbors again instead of the winter shovel nod, buds and birds reappear, and the hours of daylight increase. As we strive to leave winter behind and surge into spring, April is a perfect time to renew and recommit to living the life of a steward. What better time to plant the seed of your gifts and watch them grow with your sharing? There are needs in your corner of the world that you have the perfect gifts to answer. Instead of offering "foolish" lip service such as, "I'll help out later, when I have more time" (that's not going to happen), or "I don't have any gifts to share," (wrong again, each of us is uniquely gifted), spring forward, and just give of yourself. You won't be disappointed.

If you aren't sure what your gifts may be, perhaps it's time to take a Living Your Strengths class at Pax Christi. Join over 950 members who have learned about their God-given strengths by taking an online assessment and working within a small group environment to learn how to harness your strengths and be the person God calls you to be. This spring we are offering two six-week courses, the first starting on Sunday mornings from 9:30–11:00am beginning April 12, and a second class meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30–8:00pm starting April 14. The \$17 fee covers the online code, a textbook, journal, and a certified facilitator to guide the small group. If you would like to register for the Sunday or Tuesday Living Your Strengths Class, contact Mary Kennedy, mkennedy@paxchristi.com or 952-405-7220. *Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship.*

THE POWER OF PAX CHRISTI- MEET JUDY OLMSTED

JUDY OLMSTED has been a member of Pax Christi since the very beginning (Okay, she admits she missed the first week). As someone who lived “on the other side of the tracks,” she was part of the group that came over from St. Ed’s in Bloomington to start this new church in Eden Prairie. And she and her family have been faithful, active members of this community ever since.

Her volunteer philosophy at first meant supporting whatever activity her children were involved in, whether it was Boy Scouts, Art Masterpiece, or CCD classes (what we call faith formation today). When her

family obligations were over, she was free to choose her own activities, which followed her passion for justice issues.

Judy served on the Justice Council for three years and really enjoys seeing the fruits of all the visioning that took place during her time on the council. And serving on the council pushed her into advocacy at the Capitol. “I never thought I could be a voice for these different causes.”

However her first choice is to be a “doer,” and the 12-Baskets Ministry allows her to do just that. This ministry conducts eight drives during the year

(Thanksgiving dinners, Easter baskets, back-to-school supplies, library books, Christmas gifts, etc.) where community members are asked to donate items. As a co-leader of this ministry, Judy’s task is to help the group evaluate and select the agencies that will receive support from Pax Christi. The planning team meets once per month, and new members are always welcome. Sorting and delivering the items takes many hands, so volunteer help is always needed in this area, too. If you or your family would like to help, please call the church office or sign up on the gifts inventory form.

Written by Maret Ryan, parishioner.



PAX CHRISTI OUTSIDE SPACES: A CALL FOR COMMUNITY INPUT

THREE YEARS AGO the Facilities Council began a deliberate process looking at how to best renew the St Francis Shrine space. The area had issues. Deteriorating infrastructure, critters, invasive plants, even minor vandalism had a negative impact despite efforts of dedicated gardeners to retain its original beauty. A call went out to people in our community to discuss, debate, and share ideas about what could be done. From those initial meetings an ad-hoc Shrine Planning Team was formed. This team took the community input and formed a specific, doable plan. The call went out for volunteers to go to work and work they did. Gardeners’, Hard Hats, Boy

Scouts, and many parishioners donated their time, talent and yes money to make it happen. We can be justifiably proud of what was accomplished.

Throughout this process, a recurring theme kept bubbling up to the surface. What’s next? Thanks to the foresight of our pioneer parishioners, we have 23 acres of one of the most unique and beautiful church sites anywhere in the country. What should we do to be the best stewards of this precious gift? The Facilities Council has determined that we need an overall master plan for all of our outdoor spaces. No one person has all the right answers, but the St Francis project has given



some insight on how we might proceed. Using lessons learned from that project we are sounding a call for community input and will be forming a working committee charged with creating a master plan.

We will start with listening meetings after all the Masses on **APRIL 11 AND 12**, in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Room near the main entrance.

These “brainstorming” sessions have two objectives:

- Listen to ideas – big, small, and everything in between

- Identify interested individuals– Ranging from those who are “just curious” and want to stay in the communication loop to anyone who may have an interest in participating as a member of the steering committee

If you would like to be involved, but are unable to attend these meetings contact Ken Reineccius, Dir. of Operations, 952-405-7250, or kreineccius@paxchristi.com; or Joe Zweber, 612-501-1700, joezweber@gmail.com.

MAKE SURE PAX CHRISTI IS PART OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD'S SUMMER PLANS FOR FUN AND FAITH!

SAVE THE DATES! Registration and program details will be available soon. Parent volunteers help make it all happen and you receive even more than you give! Complete details at www.paxchristi.com.

FROM PRE-SCHOOL
TO HIGH SCHOOL,
THERE'S A PLACE
AT PAX CHRISTI
FOR YOU!

VACATION BIBLE CAMP
JULY 27-31, 9:00AM-NOON
AGE 3-GRADE 6



**MISSION/SERVICE TRIP
TO SIOUX FALLS, SD**
JUNE 29-JULY 2
GRADES 6-8



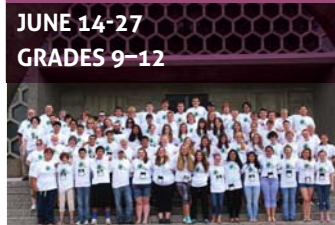
**SUMMER FEST
IN MENOMONIE, WI**
JULY 20-24
GRADES 6-8



"SON" AND SERVICE CAMP
JULY 27-31, 8:45AM-4:30PM
GRADES 6-9



**YOUTH IN THEOLOGY
AND MINISTRY
AT ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY**
JUNE 14-27
GRADES 9-12



**YOUNG NEIGHBORS
IN ACTION
IN WASHINGTON, DC (full)**
JULY 11-18
GRADES 9-12



COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

NICER WEATHER means an increase in the number of walks, rides, and other efforts to raise money for a cause. The more intense the experience, the fewer number of participants. They are often accompanied by higher expenses too. Supporters and benefactors make it possible for these important events to happen.

Some experiences in parish life are like this, too. Things like retreats, camps, and mission trips offer unique experiences

for special groups of people. They are an important part of our tradition that help shape and form participants, especially our youth, often for a lifetime. Unfortunately, there are higher expenses. Fortunately, we have a way to still make these opportunities possible.

"Companions on the Journey" affords an avenue for parish members to support the young people in our parish so they can participate in the unique, special experiences

like camps and mission trips during the summer months. The youth need your dollars to make the trip possible and to cover expenses. They also need your prayers and to know that there are adults in this parish community that care about them.

ON THE WEEKENDS OF MAY 30/31 AND JUNE 6/7 after all Masses, you will be invited to show your support by contributing to these youth

programs and become a "Companion on the Journey." You may also contribute on our secure parish website at www.paxchristi.com.

This is not a one way relationship. The youth will lift you up in prayer as they prepare and then participate in the experience. There will also be a time after they return to share their stories with you, their benefactors.



FIC – THE UPPER ROOM

And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. –Acts 1:13

TWO THOUSAND YEARS LATER, the senior high youth of Pax Christi endeavor to emulate their Christian predecessors, with the only noticeable difference being that their troupe is sadly devoid of a Bartholomew.

Every Sunday at 6:30pm, the high school juniors and seniors of the Pax Christi Upper Room Faith Interest Connector (FIC) group meet at the rectory to develop their beliefs. The mentality of the Upper Room is that one's faith exploration shouldn't end after Confirmation. But the Upper Room's idea of faith exploration isn't all work and no play. A typical evening begins with pizza and, if there are leftovers, ends with pizza as well. These pizza-bookended meetings are filled with fruitful discussions, with topics ranging from the origin of faith to Christianity in

film to activism in the Church. Another activity the Upper Room enjoyed was a cultural exploration through a *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) celebration, wherein they created a traditional Mexican altar (and consumed traditional Mexican food).

Most recently, the youth partook in both a jubilant and thought-provoking evening to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. To get the ball rolling, they were treated to a Southern-style feast which consisted of from-scratch fried catfish, fried chicken, homemade macaroni and cheese, mashed black-eyed peas, collard greens, and cornbread muffins. Following the meal, the youth watched a film entitled *Freedom Riders* which chronicled the brave undertakings of civil rights activists who stood up against segregation in the Southern United States. The Upper Room plans to conduct similar events in the future.

Led by Trish Vanni and Peter Bierer, the Upper Room is a tremendous way for Pax Christi juniors and seniors to become more involved in their faith alongside their friends. For more information, contact Peter Bierer, pbierer@paxchristi.com.
Written by parishioner, Emily Corpuz.



READINGS FOR APRIL

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 5, 2015

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or Lk 24:13-35
Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 12, 2015

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31
Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2015

Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51--8:1a/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2015

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: Acts 12:24--13:5a/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Jn 13:16-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Jn 14:7-14

APRIL

GARDENING/OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE SIGNUP

Weekends THROUGH APRIL FOLLOWING ALL Masses at ENTRANCES

Do you love the outdoors? Do you like to see the results of your efforts? Come join the Summer Gardening and Outdoor Maintenance Group. We have split up our Pax Christi property into approximately 15 different areas and are looking for people to sign up to take care of various areas for a month from May through September. Depending on the condition of the area, this should involve working the area once a week or once every other week. All we are looking for are volunteers to do a little trimming, weeding, and/ or sweeping to keep our facilities looking great. It's a great way to take pride in our wonderful facilities. We have a sign up table at door number 3 and we will provide you with a list of suggested work and how to handle the weeds or trimmings when you are done. The whole Pax Christi community will appreciate your efforts.

MINISTRY TO THE SEPARATED AND DIVORCED

Monday Evenings Beginning APRIL 13, 6:30-8:30pm, St. Richard's

The loss of a relationship through separation and divorce poses one of the most difficult transitions a person can face. As people journey through a divorce, they face the stress of emotions, life changes, and developing ways to live a new life.

The Coalition of area Catholic Churches supports and sponsors the Ministry to the Separated and Divorced Speaker Series and Divorce and Beyond Support Group, ministering to those who are experiencing this specific life transition. The Spring Speaker Series will be held on April 13 (Using Family Strengths in Response to Separation and Divorce), April 20 (Separation/Divorce and Shattered Dreams: Storying and Re-storying After Loss) and April 27 (Family Ripples: Attention to Children, Grandparents, Friends) at St. Richard's Catholic Church, 7540 Penn Ave So. Richfield, MN 55423. There is no fee for the speaker series.

BOOMERS AND BEYOND: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2:30-4:30pm, Chanhassen Location

Join the Boomers and Beyond at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen, 18732 Lake Dr. (1st street to the right off Hwy. 5 & Dell Rd south) to help pack meals that are shipped to over 70 countries around the world to feed nutritious meals to needy children. All are welcome to this service opportunity. There is no fee to attend; monetary donations for food and shipping are welcomed by the Feed My Starving Children organization. Please register online at www.paxchristi.com or by calling the RSVP line, 952-405-7251. After meals are packed, those who wish are welcome to join other Boomers for a bite to eat at the American Legion in Chanhassen. **RSVP**

THE MANY FACES OF OUR MOTHER MARY

Wednesday, APRIL 22, 29, May 6, 6:30-8:00pm, Room 239

The Gospels offer us brief but vivid stories about Mary the mother of Jesus. While much can be learned by exploring the biblical narrative, our lived tradition of celebrating the life and role of the Blessed Mother is also rich. In this series we come together to explore historical, cultural, and religious perspectives on Mary. These will include reflecting on the biblical narrative; learning about the Marian appearances in Mexico, Ireland, Vietnam, Portugal, France and more; and encountering Vatican II and contemporary teaching on Mary as a "type" of the Church. In song, story, and prayer, we will honor Mary in the traditional season in which we remember her, and hopefully come away with a deeper connection to the one who is proclaimed Blessed Mother by all Catholics.

MAY

ART EXHIBIT: GOD'S BEAUTY - PAPER COLLAGE

APRIL 26-MAY 10, ARTIST RECEPTION APRIL 26, 10:00am-1:00pm

Join us in welcoming Twin Cities artist, Raynele Schneider, to the Pacem in Terris Gallery. God's beautiful creation inspires much of her work. Her style is restful, gentle, and filled with springtime colors. Raynele's primary medium is paper collage. She then embellishes it with paint, markers, gel pens and colored pencils. Feast your eyes on her work and give a big sigh of joy and thanks for God's beauty. Raynele says, "Depicting nature is a passionate adventure. It gives me joy to bring beauty, meaning and inspiration."

PAX CHRISTI'S ANNUAL RUNWALKPRAY5K

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 9:00am, Fee \$20/\$10 ADDITIONAL FAMILY PARTICIPANT

The Stewardship Council along with member fitness enthusiasts at Pax Christi are planning the 3rd Annual RunWalkPray5k. This parish-wide effort will benefit Crops for PROP community garden and build community among Pax Christi families and the greater Eden Prairie neighborhood. With a theme of RunWalkPray5k, we aim to focus on finding balance through use of our healthy bodies while building fellowship and enjoying God's creation. With this 5k, we will strengthen our community and our spiritual and physical fitness. All are welcome! Pax Christi families and residents from the surrounding communities are invited to join in the fun. Bring someone along who is not a Pax Christi member. Our goal is 250 participants so we need you to join in the fun. Register by May 11. **RSVP**



MAKE PLANS NOW

SUICIDE PREVENTION IN MINNESOTA: A PROGRESS REPORT

Monday, June 1, 6:30–8:00pm

Preventing suicide is becoming a top priority for health care and mental health services around the country. Here in Minnesota, a public-private task force has been working on the development of a statewide suicide prevention plan. The goal of the plan is to reduce suicide deaths in Minnesota by 10 percent in five years, and by twenty percent in ten years, ultimately working toward zero suicides. This educational program will provide information about the activities outlined in the state plan and help participants identify how they can take steps to reduce suicide in their own community. In particular, participants will learn how they and their organizations can promote messages of resilience and recovery for people with mental illness and their families. This event is co-sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and Pax Christi Catholic Community. The presenters will be Donna Fox, Program Director, NAMI Minnesota, and Melissa Hensley, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Augsburg College. This event is free, but please register online. **RSVP**

YOUTH IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

June 14–27, St. John's University, Grades 9–12, Fee of \$250

Spend two weeks at St. John's University with other high school youth serving those in need, making new friendships, and having fun! Live on a college campus and hang out with monks and nuns (this is actually very cool)! The cost is \$375. Scholarships are available! Register with a \$50 deposit. **RSVP**

MISSION/SERVICE TRIP TO SIOUX FALLS, SD

June 29–July 2, Grades 6–8, Fee of \$250

All current 6th–8th grade youth are encouraged to be a part of this trip. We will be working with agencies that help the homeless, mentally ill, and families of men in prison. You will be the hands and feet of Jesus! Register with a \$50 deposit. The cost of the trip is \$300. Adults are also needed to help drive and chaperone and must have completed a background check, driver's check, and Virtus training. Be the hands and feet of Jesus as we serve others in Sioux Falls! **RSVP**

SUMMER FESTIVAL SUMMER CAMP

July 20–24, Menomonie, WI, Grades 6–8, Fee of \$385

Youth currently in 6th–8th grade are invited to participate in this amazing week-long summer camp experience. Join hundreds of other youth for messy games, a rockin' band, funny skits, powerful talks, and a chance to have meaningful conversations about God. Plan now to attend, and register online by May 1. A \$50 deposit will hold your spot (the remaining cost of \$335 will be billed). Adults interested in chaperoning are also needed! **RSVP**

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

July 27–31, 9:00am–Noon, Age 3–Grade 6

There is no better place for children age 3–grade 6 to have fun singing, praying, doing crafts, playing games with friends old and new in a very supportive, caring environment. The theme this year is "God is our Rock" and will feature great presentations making bible stories come alive to learn and live the message of God's love. **RSVP**

"SON" AND SERVICE CAMP

July 27–31, 8:45am–4:30pm, Grades 6–9

SSC takes place the same week as Pax Christi's Vacation Bible Camp and is a great, age-appropriate alternative for our middle-school youth. SSC will begin at 8:45am each day with service (at Vacation Bible Camp and other metro area sites). The afternoons are filled with fun activities such as Grand Slam, a water park, movies, and games. We wrap up our day at 4:30pm. Watch for more info. **RSVP**

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE (NCYC)

November 19–21, 2015, Indianapolis, IN, Fee of \$700 (est.)

Pax Christi's Sr. High Ministry will be joining over 20,000 Catholic teenagers for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN, and we want you to join us! This incredible weekend is filled with stellar music, inspirational speakers, amazing experiences of prayer and worship, and much more! NCYC is an incredible way to see the Catholic faith in a new way, to grow closer to God, make new friends from around the country, and be inspired to live a life of faith! Sign-up today and get ready for the experience of a lifetime! **RSVP**



A NOTE ABOUT EVENTS AT PAX CHRISTI

Due to the large volume of events we offer at Pax Christi, we have to keep our announcements brief. Please visit us online at www.paxchristi.com for additional information and details. If an event indicates **RSVP**, you may register/signup online at www.paxchristi.com/event registration. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.

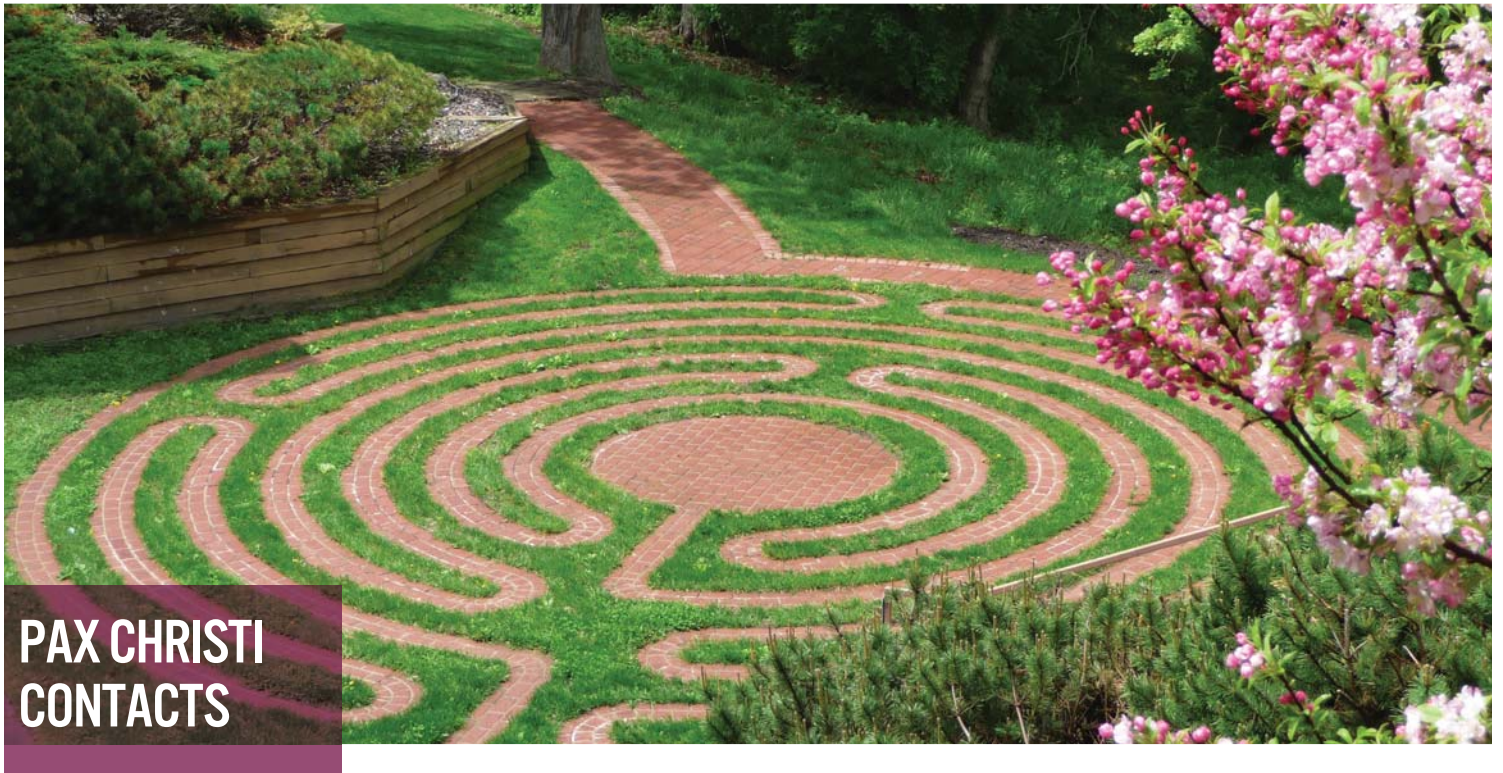
APRIL

at Pax Christi

See pages 18-19 for details.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 PALM SUNDAY	30	31	1	2 HOLY THURSDAY	3 GOOD FRIDAY LIVING STATIONS LORD'S PASSION	4 HOLY SATURDAY BLESS EASTER FOOD EASTER VIGIL
5 EASTER EASTER MASSES	6 BUILDING CLOSED	7	8	9 INFO NIGHT FOR COUNCIL DISCERNMENT	10	11 FIRST EUCHARIST PREP RETREAT OUTDOOR MASTER PLAN MTG.
12 LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS OUTDOOR MASTER PLAN MTG. FAITH FORMATION	13	14 LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS INFO NIGHT FOR COUNCIL DISCERNMENT	15 FAITH FORMATION	16 BOOMER'S FMSC	17 CONFIRMATION RETREAT	18 CONFIRMATION RETREAT
19 FAITH FORMATION	20	21 LEADERSHIP MTGS.	22 FACES OF MARY FAITH FORMATION	23	24	25
26 PAPER COLLAGE ART EXHIBIT OPENS FAITH FORMATION	27	28 EXPLORING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP	29 FAITH FORMATION	30	MAY 1	2
3 FAITH FORMATION	4	5	6	7 MENTAL HEALTH/ SPIRITUALITY SUPPORT	8 FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE/SOCIAL	9





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