

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a blue knit hat, is shown in profile, looking towards the right. In the background, there is a nativity scene with figures of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in a manger, surrounded by other figures and lights. The scene is set outdoors at night, with warm lights illuminating the figures.

# PAXCHRISTINEWS

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

**THE JUBILEE YEAR  
BEGINS WITH A  
CELEBRATION  
AND POTLUCK!**

Page 10

**STANDING IN  
ADVENT WONDER**

Advent begins Sunday, November 29.



# PAX CHRISTI

*Catholic Community*

12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208  
Phone: 952-941-3150 Website: [www.paxchristi.com](http://www.paxchristi.com)

### Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 8:00am–4:30pm  
Friday 8:00am–12:00pm

### 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 8:30am  
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, Communication Arts Director, [mnault@paxchristi.com](mailto:mnault@paxchristi.com), or 952-405-7221. All contributions become the property of Pax Christi Catholic Community.



4

Before I Forget...  
by Fr. Bill Murtaugh



6

Behold the  
Handmaiden...Mary



8

Advent Begins





10

Jubilee Year of Mercy



11

Advent Celebration,  
All are Welcome!



12

Justice News



13

Pastoral Care News



14

Stewardship News



15

Volunteer at Pax Christi



16

Readings for the  
Month of December



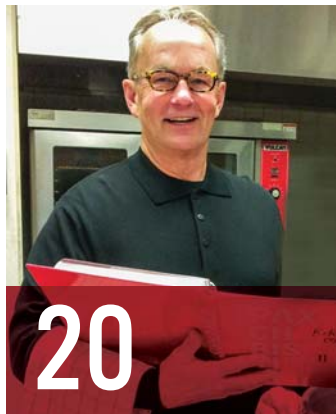
16

Parishioner News



17

What's Going on  
at Pax Christi



20

Month at a Glance....  
psst, tear this page out!



21

Contact Information

# BEFORE I FORGET...



**Fr. Bill Murtaugh**  
Pastor



At Christmas, we are called to celebrate once more the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. Once again, Christians recite the familiar yet fabulous story of harkening angels, a blazing star, a menacing king, mysterious magi, a child lying in a manger.

I suppose most of us savor our memories of Christmas as children — the anticipation, the carols, the gifts, the wonderful (almost magical) tree, going to Midnight Mass as we grew older, for many, the happiest day of the year.

Now we are older. What are adult Christians to make of the gospel stories of Jesus' birth? If they are not really biographies of Jesus' infancy and youth, what value do they have for us? We need to try to understand the Christmas stories the way they were meant to be understood by the authors, who were adults writing for adults.

Imagine that you are coming upon the gospels for the first time; that all you know of Jesus is what you read on the page. The first thing you notice is that two of the gospels, Mark and John, do not even mention his birth; Mark contains no references whatsoever to Joseph, his father, and John makes little mention of Mary, his mother. This is the first hint we have that the gospels are not life stories of Jesus or family

biographies in the modern genre. Secondly, we find that the infancy narratives or stories in Matthew and Luke vary greatly; for instance, there are magi but no shepherds in Matthew while Luke has shepherds but no magi. More important, the two accounts seem to contradict each other on essential points. For example, Matthew has the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt in the face of Herod's persecution while Luke says that they returned peacefully to Nazareth through Jerusalem without the slightest stir from Herod. And then there is the problem of corroborating certain public details. Matthew tells us that the magi were guided by an unusually bright star that came to rest over the place where Jesus was, yet there are no astronomical or other records to support this story.

In the past, it was thought that Mary had provided most of the details of the birth to Matthew and that Joseph had supplied the information to Luke. But it now seems highly unlikely that the authors of these two gospels, which were written about three-quarters of a century after Christ's birth, ever met any eyewitnesses to Jesus, much less his parents. So, unless one supposes that the evangelists took down their Christmas stories by divine dictation — a view of biblical inspiration

that has been rejected by the Church's magisterium — there is no plausible way to explain how they could have known the precise details of the nativity.

These issues tend to disappear when we learn how and why the gospels were formed. The traditional Catholic view is that the New Testament is a collection of books produced by and for the early Church. In other words, the church came first, and in the New Testament we find the tradition of first-century Christianity.

That tradition, in turn, was formed out of the preaching of the early Church, which developed historically through several stages. The first preachers, the apostles, were primarily concerned with proclaiming Jesus' identity as the Messiah — as revealed through his resurrection and exaltation. Gradually, the preachers widened their message to include Jesus' words and deeds, which they organized into collections of his sayings and miracles. Only later did they become interested in his infancy and birth.

What this means is that the gospels as we know them developed "backwards" from the passion narratives, which the early Christians knew best. As the New Testament developed, the evangelists'





motive remained the same: to proclaim the “good news” that Jesus was truly Christ, the Son of God. Catholic Biblical scholar, Fr. Raymond Brown, does not draw the conclusion that the infancy narratives are pious legends which tell us nothing of importance about Jesus. Fr. Brown finds that many of the events of Christmas which are most implausible as history make good theological sense when seen in light of the intent of Matthew and Luke.

In Matthew’s brief account, the story of the birth of Jesus becomes a tight little drama foreshadowing the much greater drama of his death and resurrection. The same cast of characters is present: the secular ruler, the chief priests and scribes opposed to Jesus, who ultimately has only God on his side. The plot line is essentially similar too, and has little to do with the actual birth; just as God vanquishes death and overcomes the enemies of Jesus by raising him up on the third day, so does God in bringing the child Jesus back to Israel from Egypt. Joseph is the hero of Matthew’s Christmas story. Throughout, Joseph patiently does as God bids him and becomes the instrument for saving Jesus, who is destined to be the savior of his people. For Matthew, Joseph represents the good Jew who is obedient to

the law of God yet finds in Jesus the fulfillment of that law.

Matthew’s gospel also foreshadows the development of the early Church after Pentecost. One of the pivotal experiences of the first-century Christians was that many Gentiles came to believe and worship Jesus as Lord while most Jews did not. Matthew includes this development among his many Christmas themes. His vehicle is the figure of the Magi, who become forerunners of believing Gentiles. Deprived of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Magi first learn of the birth of the Messiah through their natural quest for truth (astrology); from the star they learn that the Messiah is born but not where they can find him. That information is in the Hebrew Scripture, which they consult in Jerusalem. Matthew makes another point: that the Gentiles were able to recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures while the Jewish scribes could not.

Luke, writing for a community of essentially Gentile Christians, wanted to underline the fact that the good news they were receiving did not come from renegade Jews but from pious Jews who accepted Jesus as Lord. Therefore, the first receivers of the good news in his infancy narratives are

shepherds who represent those pious Jews. Luke also had a message for Gentile readers who still revered the late Caesar Augustus for inaugurating an unprecedented era of peace in the Roman Empire. For this achievement Augustus was hailed throughout Greco-Roman society as “savior of the world.” Luke wanted to indicate that the title belonged to Jesus alone. Luke wove the story of the census into his narrative to show that Augustus had inadvertently helped to initiate a new age of peace — but not from his seat of power in Rome. His Gentile audience learned that the real “savior of the world” was born humbly in Bethlehem, where a heavenly host heralded a new era of “peace on earth, to people of good will.”

All too often, we Christians miss some of the more obvious clues to the evangelists’ theological intentions — not because we lack scholarly insight but simply because we fail to give the gospels the same respectful analysis that we devote to the structure of any good story, poem, or play. When we focus this kind of attention on Luke’s Christmas story, one thing we notice is that he devotes very little space to the birth itself. “She gave birth to a son, her first-born,” is all he says. But he mentions the manger

three times. Obviously the manger is an important sign. The symbolism of the manger derives its meaning from Isaiah 1:3, “The ox knows its owner and the donkey knows the manger of the Lord; but Israel has not known me and my people has not understood me.” By placing Jesus in a manger and mentioning the fact three times, Luke emphasizes his theological message that in Jesus, Israel has at last found its Lord.

As might be expected, scholarly reflections of the infancy narrative run into considerable opposition from Christian fundamentalists who insist — against the Catholic tradition — that the Bible must be read only on the most literal level. There are also Catholics who feel any effort to uncover the various layers of meaning in the infancy narratives only destroys the emotional attachment to the Christmas stories. Nostalgia becomes the enemy by censoring the mind’s adult quest for Christian enlightenment. There is no reason why we can’t enjoy the Christmas stories and also appreciate their larger significance as foreshadowing the death and resurrection of Jesus — the cornerstone of our Christian faith.



# BEHOLD THE HANDMAIDEN... MARY

"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary." So Luke introduces us to the mother of Jesus, perhaps the most famous and depicted woman of all time.

The Scriptures offer us a picture of who she was: the brave young woman who surrenders to the will of God; the courageous, intrepid traveler fleeing her homeland with her husband, hoping to protect her child; the exasperated, worried parent searching for a missing, misbehaving adolescent; the confident visionary who does not hesitate to call her son into public ministry with the performance of his first miracle, at Cana. She is the matriarch who is rebuffed when her son chooses his disciples over his family, and the horrified witness to the public execution of her son by the state. In our last encounter with her, she is the elder touched by the Spirit when it descends upon those huddled in the upper room on Pentecost.

For many of us, Mary is most in the foreground in the Christmas season. We are remind of her when we see beautiful nativity scenes in church and on greeting cards we receive. This year's Advent readings from Luke bring us the vivid stories of the annunciation of the angel, Mary's visit to her cousin, and Mary's song of response to Elizabeth's, *The Canticle of Mary*.

The Church holds Mary up to us as the ultimate example of faithfulness and discipleship. She is God's handmaid, a model of faith for all Christians to follow. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta's extraordinary prayer speaks of this powerfully: "Mary, my dearest mother, give me your heart so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate, so full of love and humility, that I may receive Jesus as you did — and go in haste to give him to others."

Mary's humility and humanity stand out in stark relief in the Scriptures. It is no wonder that many Christians, particularly women, have felt close to Mary. In the middle ages, when people felt inadequate and scared of addressing God directly, praying the rosary emerged as a practice. The rose became a symbol of Mary, and by the 1400s, the commonplace string of stones or knots became a special string of prayer beads called a rosary, or rose garland.





The rosary is a devotion that honors our relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary. When we pray it, we remember the journey of Jesus Christ from His conception to His ascension into heaven, the role that His mother played in his life, and her special place in heaven among the saints and angels. As a form of meditation, the repetitive prayers of the rosary allow us to rest in our relationship with God and reflect on the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries which reveal the wonder of our incarnate God.

Although when we pray the rosary, we give honor to Mary as the most unique human person in God's creation, we are not praying to Mary. Rather, we are praying with her, our partner in bringing our needs before God. The Hail Mary itself says it: We entreat Mary to "pray for us, now and at the hour of our death, Amen." Consider adding the rosary to your Advent prayer practices, letting the story of Mary in the Joyful Mysteries speak to your heart in preparation for the wonder of Christmas. *Written by parishioner Trish Sullivan Vanni.*

*Trish Sullivan Vanni, MDIV, PhD is a theologian and teacher whose work supports expressing discipleship. She is a Pax Christi member who was led to a great love for and reverence of the Blessed Mother by her faithful Irish grandmothers.*

Mary, my dearest mother,  
 give me your heart  
 so beautiful, so pure, so  
 Immaculate, so full of love  
 and humility, that I may  
 receive Jesus as you did-  
 -and go in haste to give him  
 to others.  
 God bless you  
 M. Teresa M.C.



THE CANTICLE OF MARY MAY BE THE MOST EXQUISITE  
 WORDS SPOKEN IN THE BIBLE BY A WOMAN.  
 UNFORTUNATELY, THIS PORTION OF LUKE'S GOSPEL IS  
 NOT PROCLAIMED ON ANY SUNDAY OF THE THREE-YEAR  
 CYCLE. EMBRACE ITS RICHNESS BY INCORPORATING IT  
 INTO YOUR ADVENT PRAYER THIS YEAR.

AND MARY SAID:

"MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD;  
 MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR.  
 FOR HE HAS LOOKED UPON HIS HANDMAID'S LOWLINESS;  
 BEHOLD, FROM NOW ON WILL ALL AGES CALL ME BLESSED.  
 THE MIGHTY ONE HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR ME,  
 AND HOLY IS HIS NAME.  
 HIS MERCY IS FROM AGE TO AGE  
 TO THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.  
 HE HAS SHOWN MIGHT WITH HIS ARM,  
 DISPERSED THE ARROGANT OF MIND AND HEART.  
 HE HAS THROWN DOWN THE RULERS FROM THEIR THRONES  
 BUT LIFTED UP THE LOWLY.  
 THE HUNGRY HE HAS FILLED WITH GOOD THINGS;  
 THE RICH HE HAS SENT AWAY EMPTY.  
 HE HAS HELPED ISRAEL HIS SERVANT,  
 REMEMBERING HIS MERCY,  
 ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE TO OUR FATHERS,  
 TO ABRAHAM AND TO HIS DESCENDANTS FOREVER."

LUKE 1:46-56

# STANDING IN ADVENT WONDER



During our Advent stirrings and ponderings, we listen carefully to the sounds and melodies of life about us as proclaimed in this traditional hymn of the season, *Creator of the Stars of Night*:

*Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call.*

This ancient Advent hymn challenges us to recognize the Creator of all things, the Creator of the stars, the planets, the plants, the people of this universe. We are reminded that all of creation is in need of redemption, of being saved, of being united to the whole. Thomas Berry, C.P., a priest of the Passionate religious community and a major contributor to discussions on the environment, is noted for recognizing a trinity of principles that underlies all planetary matter. The first principle, differentiation, identifies the beauty contained in all created things, where no two things are completely alike, and all creation holds a distinct variety and beauty. We would do well, as people of Advent wonder, to dare to be aware of the distinct beauty of all of creation, the diversity within, and the simply profound fact that all are redeemed in the act of the Incarnation.

*In sorrow that the ancient curse  
Should doom to death a universe,  
You came, O Savior, to set free  
Your own in glorious liberty.*

Subjectivity is the second of Berry's principles that identifies the universe. In subjectivity, all creation has an interiority, a consciousness, a divine sacredness which connects our integrity as the inner core of who we are. Certainly this Savior, this God-become-human, has already set us free from the ancient curse which oppresses us by failing to see this divine sacredness contained within the heart and soul of creation. Can we, people of Advent holiness, be prodded to see the Holy that has touched all of creation and perhaps even peer into the Holiness held within our own selves?

*At your great Name, O Jesus, now  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
All things on earth with one accord,  
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.*

Communion, Berry's third trinitarian principle, is the ability to relate to other people and things due to the presence of both differentiation and subjectivity, thus creating the basis for an inner attraction of all things for one another, with a bondedness on the spiritual and physical levels. The only response is a humble posture, where the knee is bent, and the heart bowed. Can we, people of Advent reverence, dare to reverse the awesome and awful that we see, knowing that we are connected to all by our own existence?

During the liturgy of the First Sunday of Advent, the gospel account of Luke 21: 25, 28, states: "there will be strange things happening to the sun, the moon, and the stars...when these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation is near." Perhaps the time is now to see the beauty in the differences of creation, to see the holy and the divine in that creation, and to allow ourselves to be connected with the universe in all its wonder. Then we will have cause to stand up, raise our heads in joyful expectation as we greet Salvation.

So we, people of Advent faith, push on in our today to grasp and find the reality of Christ-among-us...and we would do well to take the rest of creation with us.

*Written by Jane Schmitz, Parish Director.*





## BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The family Christmas tree is a thing of beauty. It is also a sign of faith. The northern Europeans brought evergreens inside to remind them that life would survive even in the dead of winter. Ritualize the symbolism of the tree by having a family blessing for it. Following is a simple ritual you can use.

Keep the tree dark and gather everybody around.

Play or sing an Advent song or Christmas carol.

The oldest child or an adult reads from Psalm 96:11-13. Take a moment to ask God's blessing on all the members of the family.

**A parent or grandparent blesses the tree with the following words:**

*God of creation, thank you for this tree. It brings into our home the memories of the Christmases past and the hopes of Christmases to come. Help us to keep the Christmas feast in joy and love. We are waiting for the coming of your Son, Jesus, to bring peace and justice to the world. May your love and grace always be with us. Amen!*

Light the tree and enjoy the evening!

# ADVENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 29

## 2015 SCHEDULE

### Sacrament of Reconciliation (Private)

Saturdays, November 28, December 5, 12, 19 3:30–4:30pm

### First Sunday of Advent

November 29

### Advent Reconciliation Service

December 1

*We Prepare for the Jubilee Year: Open Our Hearts!* 7:00pm

Opportunity for individual confessions following the service.

### Second Sunday of Advent

December 6

### Opening Celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

December 8

Morning Mass 8:30am

International Potluck 5:30pm

Mass 7:00pm

### Third Sunday of Advent

December 13

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20

### Christmas Eve

December 24

Mass with Children's Liturgy of the Word *Fr. Hayek* 4:00pm

Christmas Mass (*Nazareth Hall*) *Fr. Murtaugh* 4:00pm

Christmas Mass *Fr. Hayek* 6:00pm

Christmas Mass *Fr. McMichael* 7:30pm

Lessons and Carols, followed by 9:30pm

Solemn Celebration of Christmas *Fr. Murtaugh* 10:00pm

### Christmas Day

December 25

Christmas Mass *Fr. Hayek* 9:00am

Christmas Mass *Fr. Murtaugh* 11:00am

*No 5:00pm Mass, building closed.*

### Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 27

Regular Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule

### Feast of Mary, Mother of God

December 31

Holy Day *Fr. Murtaugh* 5:00pm

### Feast of Mary, Mother of God

January 1

Holy Day *Fr. Hayek* 9:00am

# THE YEAR OF JUBILEE BEGINS

**“OPEN WIDE THE DOORS, LET THE SPIRIT IN. OPEN WIDE THE DOORS, LET THE WORK OF CHRIST BEGIN!”**



## ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: OPEN OUR EYES, OPEN OUR HEARTS

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 7:00PM**

Pax Christi will celebrate a community reconciliation service that will include music, scripture, prayer, breaking open the Word, and a time to reflect on our relationships with God, others, and self. Part of our prayer and reflection time together will include a powerful video from *The Year of Encounter with Pope Francis*. Opportunity for individual confessions following the service.

LET US OPEN OUR EYES AND  
SEE THE MISERY OF THE  
WORLD, THE WOUNDS OF OUR  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO  
ARE DENIED THEIR DIGNITY  
AND LET US RECOGNIZE THAT  
WE ARE COMPELLED TO HEED  
THEIR CRY FOR HELP.

—POPE FRANCIS



## INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 5:30PM**

What’s for dinner? It will be whatever dish you bring to share that celebrates your heritage – German potato salad, Irish stew, Pakistani Kima, French bread, dessert, brioche, eggrolls, lefsa! Join us for our second Annual International Potluck. Bring whatever dish celebrates your family’s origins. Pax Christi will provide plates and utensils, coffee, tea, and water, while you our members, will provide the dishes made famous in your family. We who have been here welcome our new members sharing our favorite foods and conversation with one another. *(We are all wondering what Fr. Bill is cooking up!)*

MAY IT OPEN TO US EVER MORE  
FERVENT DIALOGUE SO THAT WE  
MIGHT KNOW AND UNDERSTAND  
ONE ANOTHER BETTER; MAY  
IT ELIMINATE EVERY FORM  
OF CLOSED-MINDEDNESS AND  
DISRESPECT, AND DRIVE OUT  
EVERY FORM OF VIOLENCE AND  
DISCRIMINATION.

—POPE FRANCIS



## OPENING MASS:

## TO THIS TABLE NOW WE COME. FROM THE MANY, MAKE US ONE

**DECEMBER 8, 7:00PM**

As the doors of churches around the world open on December 8 to celebrate the beginning of this Jubilee Year, we too will gather as a community of faith that is part of the global church.

We open wide the doors not just to welcome joyfully all who enter but also to leave as disciples ready to reach out to those on the margins of society, those who are feeling left out, our sisters and brothers who are homeless or hungry, those in our midst who are seeking. We are dismissed with these words in our hearts: **Our worship is ended; our service begins!**

*Written by Donna Kasbohm, Director of Worship and Music*





# WHOLE COMMUNITY FORMATION ADVENT CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13: 5:00PM MASS, 6:00PM DINNER, 6:30PM FAMILY EVENT

*Rejoice in God's  
Merciful Light!*

*Time is sacred; we hunger for time,*

*But time with the Sacred, is our  
deepest hunger.*

*Use this special event as time to  
bond with your family,*

*build lasting warm memories,  
satisfy your hunger for the sacred.*

## **6:30PM FAMILY EVENT:**

Opening program

Activities for all ages

Advent Bingo

Closing Festival of Lights Ceremony

*All are Welcome!*

## PAX CHRISTI 2015 VIRTUAL ADVENT CALENDAR

*Open Wide the Doors* to the Lord at home, in your office, in school, wherever you are. Make the most of this Advent Season. This interactive calendar will help you to slow down and discover the quiet moments of the season. The first door opens on November 29 at [www.paxchristi.com/advent](http://www.paxchristi.com/advent).

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (DECEMBER 19-20)

You are invited to bring your BURGUNDY BAG of groceries to be included as part of the presentation of gifts, a visual reminder during this holy season of Advent and Christmas of our ongoing call to care for those who are in need.



## CHARITY GIVES, BUT JUSTICE CHANGES

*Have you been listening? Have you heard the words of Pope Francis on seeking justice?*

A couple months ago I wrote about a video series that the Pax Christi Justice Council was producing about the seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the videos were delayed a bit in getting to you. However, Justice Council is very proud to announce that the videos will begin showing on the weekend of December 5/6, during all Masses. We begin with an overview of what the seven principles are and then highlight each of them separately in subsequent weeks.

Throughout these eight weeks in December and January, we hope that you will use these videos to reflect on how you can meet the challenge of Pope Francis to look and see the world through the eyes of the poor and forgotten, the rejected and dejected.

Open your heart to the possibilities here at Pax Christi to not only talk the talk but to truly walk the walk. Watch for the handouts after Mass listing specifics on organizations and activities in which you can become involved, including highlights of what each group does and contact information so you can easily get in touch with them.

It is our hope that when your feet walk out of Pax Christi Church after a weekend Mass, your head and your heart and your hands are busy all week long living out these principles!

*Written by Marcia Kladek, Co-Chair of Justice Council*



## REMEMBERING LIVES OF SACRED DIGNITY

Last year, a week before Christmas, a dozen or so hardy souls from Pax Christi joined several hundred warmly-dressed marchers and participated in the 30th Annual March and Silent Vigil for the Homeless.

This year we are inviting you to mark your calendar for the 31st Annual Walk/Memorial on December 17. This event draws attention to the thousands of Minnesota citizens who are homeless each night in our state and honors the homeless and homeless advocates who died during the year.

The walk is sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless and Simpson Housing Services and begins at the Hennepin County Government Center at 5:00 pm, marches west on 5th Street to Nicollet Mall, and south on Nicollet Mall to 28th Street (about a two-mile walk) to Simpson United Methodist Church.

At 6:30pm is a Service of Remembrance where a candle is lit in memory of someone who died this past year. Last year, over 100 people were remembered. At 7:30pm, a community meal will be served on the church's lower level. All attending the walk or the memorial are invited to stay for dinner.

Anyone reading this is invited to attend. Please mark your calendar for December 17 and make a difference in the life of a homeless person and in your own life and holiday preparation.

For more information, contact Fr. Hayek at the parish office or email Tom Sampson@tws42@hotmail.com. *Written by Tom Sampson, Justice Council.*





# OUR PRESENCE IN THE PRESENTS

As you read this December issue of your Pax Christi magazine I suspect you're sipping hot chocolate and marveling at all the beautiful presents tucked under your tree. Well, maybe not. It's more likely that you're looking at your long list and fretting over whether your mom will like that coffee maker; does babysitter Carly even like to eat at Panera; will those boots fit Charlie? In our consumer driven society we've become so preoccupied with finding the "perfect" gift that we've failed to realize that our presence is really what we are giving in all those presents.

My husband and I are parents of two daughters. When our girls were little, I recall trudging with him down the perfectly pink toy aisle at Toys "R" Us, nudging him into the sea of all things fairy and fluffy. We would search for hours for something we knew our daughters would enjoy. As we surveyed the latest Polly Pocket selection, it occurred to me that the gift my husband was giving his daughters was not wrapped up in some

glittery box on the shelf but was in his willingness to stand in that aisle and ask himself, "What would my daughter love the most?" What father would spend hours of his day in the toy store? A father who loves his daughters. The gift, you see, is in the thought. The real gift under the tree is his love, his time, his presence.

I've carried this thought with me over the years and it's saved me countless hours of pondering over the "perfect" gift. When I'm picking out fluffy towels for my sister or a necklace for my friend, I'm now aware that there's more to the present than simply its contents — it's my desire is to give them joy, happiness, a symbol of my love. As the giver, they are receiving a piece of my presence in the gift. When I see that beautiful cut-glass plate in my china cabinet, a gift from my mother-in-law who has been gone for many years, I know I have a part of her in my home. The bowl becomes "perfect" because it was from her. Of the myriad of choices she had, this is what she

wanted me to have. Sometimes with a gift I can even recall the moment it was given to me. Their presence stays in the gift and is an expression of their affection, friendship, interest, or respect.

When deciding on the "perfect" gift, remember it doesn't have to be purchased in a store. Don't be afraid to pray for inspiration and see what happens. Maybe the perfect gift is spending time with your lonely neighbor, shoveling snow for a single mother, singing songs at a Care Center, a phone call to an estranged friend to say I'm sorry, opening the door to forgiveness. Then after you've decided on your gift, wrap it with a heartfelt prayer. What better Christmas present can we offer to those around us than prayer!

So go ahead and have that cup of hot. I think of all those gifts purchased, or still on your list, and imagine the receiver as he/she receives your gift of presence. *Written by Jean Thoresen, Director of Pastoral Care.*

"IT IS WHEN YOU GIVE  
OF YOURSELF THAT  
YOU TRULY GIVE."  
—KAHLIL GIBRAN





# OPEN WIDE THE DOORS IN WELCOME TO ALL

The nose knows. You wake up to the smell of fresh coffee and suddenly you are seemingly transported out of bed, wide awake, and making your way to claim your share of that heavenly smell. You are walking down the street, and as you pass by a bakery the aroma of cinnamon and nutmeg transports you back in time to your grandmother's kitchen and the memory of being her special helper as she created holiday treats. You can almost hear her easy instructions that the batter needed a pinch of this and a dash of that to make it just perfect. Grandma never needed a recipe. She just knew the correct quantities of ingredients by the "feel" as she lovingly stirred or kneaded her creation – and she was never wrong. Scent is a great memory trigger. It can bring back events of long ago and make us smile in the remembrance. Name a holiday and a favorite dish will come to mind, and even the face of the relative or friend who made it best. The thought of that favorite food shared can be a powerful tool in remembering conversations, friendships, and celebrations that hold a special place in your mind and heart.

The celebrations we have shared with family and friends open up the doors to the community we form with those around us. When my daughter married her husband, she not only gained her husband's family but she also was welcomed into the community that her in-laws had created many years previously. Her in-laws met and married while in college in Arizona; he from Texas, she from Wisconsin, and both too far away from home to get back for the holidays on a regular basis. Instead, as this couple and their immediate family grew to include four boys, they started a tradition of celebrating holidays with the families in their neighborhood. Thirty-plus-something years later, this community has grown, flourished, and forged a bond as strong as any family as they continue to gather and support one another as they together face the ups and downs of everyday life, as they share many happy memories of celebrations. Even the newest member feels the loving embrace and power of this band of family forged from friendship.

We have that opportunity here at Pax Christi when we come together around the Eucharistic table and share our faith with one another. It was intentional that this place was named Pax Christi Catholic Community. All are welcome here to join in and become a valued member of this community, sharing our very selves and our gifts to help each other grow in our faith. We do this by **OPENING WIDE THE DOORS** in welcome – to the diversity of people who come as well as to the myriad ways we are called to serve – here and in the greater community. Each of us brings something unique to the table, and all gifts are needed to build this community of faith. The bond of community can be powerfully strong whether you have been here since the beginning or just joined recently. We are better because of the faith shared by all.

On Tuesday, December 8, Pope Francis will celebrate the extraordinary jubilee, the Year of Mercy, and we at Pax Christi will join in to **OPEN WIDE THE DOORS**. We will start by breaking bread together at 5:30pm with an International Potluck. This is an opportunity to bring that dish that evokes the memory of your own family and heritage as you share it with other members of Pax Christi. It could be an appetizer, dessert, an entrée, bread, or a side dish; whatever you would like to share. Choose the dish that reminds you of home and let us celebrate our heritage together as the Pax Christi Catholic Community. We will provide plates and utensils, coffee, tea, and water, and you provide that dish and the aromas that bring a smile of remembrance to your face.

At 7:00pm we will move on to the worship space and celebrate the Feast of Immaculate Conception and the start of this Year of Mercy. We will celebrate Mass with our own community as well as in solidarity with our brothers and sisters all over the world. Celebrating this extraordinary jubilee year by breaking bread and sharing our faith together-what a wonderful way to **OPEN WIDE THE DOORS** to all. *Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development.*





## THIS POPULAR EVENT SELLS OUT QUICKLY – RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY!

Please join us for a special evening to celebrate love through the ages. We're opening wide the doors to honor all couples, of all ages, at the annual Cana Dinner, on Saturday, February 6. The evening begins at 6:00pm with a hosted wine reception, followed by an amore' themed Italian dinner.

After dinner, everyone will enjoy time to mingle over coffee, wine, and a dessert bar while listening to live jazz selections from the J&S Trio. A couples photo op will be offered during the evening.

Tickets are available at an early lovebird price of \$65.00 per couple, through January 1, and \$75.00 through February 1. The ticket price includes a hosted wine reception, dinner, dessert bar, live jazz, and the couple's photo. Loving childcare may be arranged by contacting the Nursery for reservations.

Say "I do!" to the 2016 Cana Dinner and commit soon. This popular event sells out.

Registration is available at [www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration](http://www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration). For additional information contact Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development, 952-405-7220, or [mkennedy@paxchristi.com](mailto:mkennedy@paxchristi.com).



## VOLUNTEER

### WEEKEND SNOW REMOVAL

Help is needed to clear snow from sidewalks and the plaza. You can commit to a Saturday, a Sunday, a weekend, or several weekends. You can choose early hours, afternoon hours, early evening hours. Since the weather is unpredictable, you would be on call for the time frame you select. We have great equipment for clearing our walks. If you are interested in participating or hearing more about our Stewardship needs, contact Al Haider, 952-405-7232, or [ahaider@paxchristi.com](mailto:ahaider@paxchristi.com).

### MONDAY VOLUNTEERS

- Help put Pax Christi back in order after a busy weekend of Mass and Events.
  - Duties include cleaning the Sanctuary, Sacristy, and various rooms. You can pick and choose what you like to do.
  - Volunteer anytime between the hours of 6am -3pm
- Contact Al Haider, 952-405-7232, or [ahaider@paxchristi.com](mailto:ahaider@paxchristi.com).

### KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

Pax Christi is looking for kitchen volunteers to assist in keeping our kitchen clean and efficient.

- Clean counters
- Clean dishes with our dishwasher
- Organize shelves
- Miscellaneous cleaning and organizing
- Volunteer any day, Monday through Friday, anytime between the hours of 6:30am and 3:00pm

Contact Al Haider, 952-405-7232, or [ahaider@paxchristi.com](mailto:ahaider@paxchristi.com).

### GREETER, CROSS BEARER, AND SACRISTAN HELP NEEDED

Please consider joining Pax Christi's Liturgical Ministry. Sacristan's set out the cups, plates, hosts, and wine before each liturgy, and purify and store all vessels following Mass. The ability to handle sacred vessels with reverence and willingness to serve behind the scenes are needed. Sacristan/Set-Up help is needed for all Masses. Greeters and Cross Bearers are also needed for all Masses, especially at the Sunday, 5:00pm Mass. Training is provided. Please contact Sally Bergum, Liturgy Coordinator, [sbergum@paxchristi.com](mailto:sbergum@paxchristi.com), or 952-405-7229, if you are interested.



**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2015**

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/1 Thes 3:12--4:2/  
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36  
Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 4:18-22  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-6/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2015**

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6  
Monday: Is 35:1-10/ Ps 85:9-14/Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10/Mt 11:28-30  
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1, 9-13/Mt 11:11-15  
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mt 11:16-19  
Saturday: Zec 2:14-17; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18-19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2015**

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18  
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27  
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23/Mt 21:28-32  
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18b-23  
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17  
Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25  
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2015**

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45  
Monday: Sg 2:8-14/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45  
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Lk 1:46-56  
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66  
Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Lk 1:67-79  
Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3, 11-13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17/Mt 10:17-22

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 2015**

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10/Col 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52  
Monday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7-8/Mt 2:13-18  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-3, 5-6/Lk 2:22-35  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40  
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18  
Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 1:19-28

# PARISHIONER NEWS

## OCTOBER BAPTISMS

Marin Eileen Clark	10/3/2015
Isabelle Grace Gonzalez Polejewski	10/4/2015
Collins Mary Hergott	10/4/2015
Myles David Camp	10/11/2015
Emma Jean Delie	10/11/2015
Declan George Heller	10/18/2015
Lachlan Thomas Heller	10/18/2015
Henry James Meade	10/18/2015
Keenan Arthur Davis	10/25/2015
Gabriel Dan Pfeffer	10/25/2015

## OCTOBER WEDDINGS

Melissa Arrighi & David Wagner	10/2/2015
Catherine Nelson & Corey Quick	10/16/2015
Brittany Schueller & Nathan Sebolboro	10/17/2015
Kristina Trapp & Justin Stodolka	10/24/2015

## OCTOBER FUNERALS

Daniel F. Zweber	10/5/2015
Yvonne A. (Sullivan) Halek	10/10/2015
William 'Will' Scheid	10/21/2015
Thomas F. Bryan	10/27/2015

## OCTOBER NEW MEMBERS

Dick DeBlieck  
Mike Gulan and Susan Lawrence  
Shaun Johansson  
Victor and Samantha Juarez  
Sara Lesnau  
Michael and Elizabeth McKeever  
Wayne and Phyllis Olson  
Cay Patterson  
Charles and Debra Pille  
Catherine and Corey Quick  
Chris Schroeder and Jennifer Sherman  
Robert and Marilyn Small  
John and Michelle Wieser





## DECEMBER

### ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

*We Prepare for the Jubilee Year: Open Our Hearts!*

**Tuesday, December 1, 7:00pm**

Complete details on page 10.

### SR HIGH SUMMER SERVICE AND JUSTICE IMMERSION

**INFO MEETING: Tuesday, December 1, 6:00pm**

**TRIP: June 26-July 2, St. Louis, MO/ \$50 deposit / \$500 total **RSVP****

High Schoolers, are you ready to make 2016 the best summer of your life? Sign up for 2016 Summer Service and Justice Immersion Trip to St. Louis, MO, June 26-July 2 with Young Neighbors in Action! Meet teens from across the country, immerse yourself in learning service and justice, and get ready to be inspired to change the world! We will spend the week in St. Louis working with local service agencies, learning about Catholic Social Teaching and how to put it into practice in our homes and communities. We will be joined by youth from all over the country as we work for justice in St. Louis! Registration is open from **December 1-16, 2015 ONLY!**

### FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

**Friday, December 4, beginning with Mass at 8:30am**

Come and join other parishioners for 8:30am Mass in the chapel, followed by coffee, rolls, and conversation in the Chief Joseph room on the first Friday of each month. The event is sponsored by Boomers and Beyond. All are welcome.

### 7TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH: 30 HOUR FAMINE

**Friday/Saturday, December 4/5 **RSVP****

The gathering begins at Immanuel Lutheran Church, December 4 from 6:00-10:30pm. Experiencing hunger to help feed the world, the 30 Hour Famine puts hands and feet to your desire to live a life of Christian compassion. This event unites group members and impacts the way that you see and serve the world. This event can enable you to make a difference in the world - save people's lives (29,000 kids die every day from hunger). We can make a difference! We will partner with Immanuel Lutheran as we share an amazing experience together. The fee is \$20.

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AND BAKE SALE

**Saturday, December 5, 9:00am-4:00pm**

Complete details on back cover.

### SHARE THE JOY: HOLIDAY SHARING DISPLAYS/SIGNUP

**Continues THROUGH December 5/6**

Sign-up display tables will be in the Dorothy Day Social Hall after each weekend Mass. Parishioners may pick and choose from a variety of different ways for those who feel blessed and want to give back.

### PAX CHRISTI'S +55 GROUP SUNDAY BRUNCH

**Sunday, December 6, 11:00am, Kincaid's **RSVP****

Are you a 55+ single? Join other area singles for food and fun. This month's site is Kincaid's located 5600 84th St. West, Bloomington. RSVP by Wednesday, December 2, to Mary Ellen at 952-942-0178.

### FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT LOCAL CARE CENTERS

**Sunday, December 6, 2:00-4:00pm, Meet in Dorothy Day Hall **RSVP****

Families, come join the fun and brighten the day for some senior friends. We are Christmas caroling at several local senior care centers. Families provide their own transportation for this event. Singing on-key is optional. Songbooks provided. ALL ages are welcome. Meet in the Dorothy Day Hall to get directions to care centers and details about the event. We'll return to Pax Christi for hot chocolate and treats and an opportunity for a family photo.



## 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](http://www.paxchristi.com) for additional information and details. If an event indicates **RSVP**, you may register/signup online at [www.paxchristi.com/event-registration](http://www.paxchristi.com/event-registration). Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.



## A NEW LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS JOURNEY STARTS SOON

*I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. –John 17:4*

Are you a list maker? Do you yearn for that sense of accomplishment and that warm, fuzzy glow you get when you can check off a completed task? If so, perhaps you have the Achiever strength, one of the strengths identified by the Clifton Strengthsfinder in the Living Your Strengths book by the Gallup Institute. If you are the type who prefers to “go with the flow” and enjoys the fact that every day is different, then Adaptability may be one of your strengths. Perhaps you are one who can be counted on to make sure that everyone you encounter is treated equitably. If so, Consistency could be a dominant theme for you. These are just three of the 34 strengths identified in the Strengthsfinder Online Assessment. Whatever your top strengths are, each of us is unique, and the strengths God has blessed you with can help you in your career, your relationships, and your faith journey.

Perhaps it's time for you to find out what talents/strengths you bring to the table. To date, over 950 members of the Pax Christi community have taken the Living Your Strengths assessment and continue on their strengths journey.

The small group sessions run for six weeks. The next class will start **Thursday, January 7, 6:30–8:00pm, and class continues January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, and 11.**

The cost for participation in the Living Your Strengths Seminar is \$17.00. Participants will receive a copy of the Living Your Strengths book, a journal, and an online talent assessment code. Each group works with one of our certified facilitators in a small group environment to learn about strengths and how we can harness our strengths to be the person God calls us to be.

**To register, please contact Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development, [mkennedy@paxchristi.com](mailto:mkennedy@paxchristi.com), or 952-405-7220.**

## FAITH INTEREST CONNECTOR: TRAINING DAY

**Monday, December 7, 6:30pm**

CALLING ALL PEOPLE WITH PASSION! Pax Christi's Sr. High Faith Formation program is looking for adults to share their passions and gifts with high school teens! What's your thing? What do you love to do? Share your passions and gifts with teens as a member of a teaching team in a six-seven week course that you develop with the assistance of our formation minister. We are looking for adult leaders for our Winter and Spring course offerings (Winter: January - February / Spring: March - April). For more information or to find out how to share your thing, contact Peter Bierer, [pbierer@paxchristi.com](mailto:pbierer@paxchristi.com), or 952-405-7210.

## COMMUNITY WIDE INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK

**Tuesday, December 8, 5:30pm**

Complete details on page 10.

## OPENING CELEBRATION OF JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

**Tuesday, December 8, beginning with Mass at 7:00pm**

Complete details on page 10.

## NAME TAG WEEKEND

**December 11/12 – Second Full Weekend of each Month**

As you arrive for Mass, greeters will be available to assist in the process. This is one of the Worship Council's efforts towards our goal of engaging members. It is our hope that all who come to Pax Christi to worship will be a part of our outreach to one another in this very large community of faith.

## BOOMERS' HOLIDAY PARTY

**Saturday, December 12, 12:00pm RSVP**

The holidays are upon us and Boomers and Beyond are hosting their annual holiday gathering for members and guests. There will be toe tapping, hand clapping, and maybe even some sing-along music. A traditional meal of ham, cheesy potatoes, veggies, and a special secret dessert will be served. We'll start with registration beginning at 11:30am with lunch at noon. At 1:00pm the Glory Land Gospel Band, a dynamic Christian musical group, will add sparkle and inspiration to our afternoon entertainment. As a bonus, there will be a drawing for door prizes after the entertainment. You must be present to win. The fun will end around 2:30pm. The event fee is included in the Boomers and Beyond annual membership dues. A fee for non-members will be \$15.00 and collected at the door on the day of the event. Cash or check only please. Please RSVP by December 4.



## COMMUNITY FORMATION ADVENT CELEBRATION

**Sunday, December 13, beginning with 5:00pm Mass**

Complete details on page 11.

## MARCH/VIGIL FOR THE HOMELESS

**Thursday, December 17, 6:30pm**

Complete details on page 12.

## MAKE PLANS NOW

### SR HIGH YOUTH: LUTSEN MOUNTAIN SKI TRIP

**January 22-24, 2016, Lutsen Mountain, MN, \$230**

Two days of skiing/snowboarding at Lutsen Mountains with your friends - what could be better!? We'll pack up the vans and head up to Lutsen for a beautiful weekend on the mountain. Spend your days exploring the 92 runs and 1,000 skiable acres. Our group will depart Immanuel Lutheran Church at 4:30pm on Friday and return at approximately 6:30pm on Sunday. We will be staying at the Lake Superior Hostel, located in Tofte. Included in the cost is two nights lodging, two day lift pass, Saturday & Sunday breakfasts & Saturday dinner as well as lunch on the hill Saturday and Sunday (sloppy joes, fruit, and chips), and transportation. Extras: Friday supper on the road, Sunday supper on the road and ski/snowboard rental. Questions? Contact Peter Bierer, pbierer@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7210

### ANNUAL CANA DINNER

**Saturday, February 6, 6:00pm**

Complete details on page 15.

### EARTH DAY RETREAT – SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, April 23, 8:30am–2:30pm**

We are challenged to hear the “cry of the poor” and the “cry of the earth” at the same time. We are formed in the image and likeness of the Creator God and are interdependent with all of creation and the environment. Pope Francis calls us to “accept the urgency. [I]t seems clear to me also that climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to our future generations.” He connects environmentalism with social justice by emphasizing how disproportionately the poor are affected by climate change. He asks us “What kind of world do you want to leave your children?”

The day will include prayer, reflection, keynote speaker Fr. Larry Snyder, Vice President for Mission at University of St. Thomas and past president of Catholic Charities USA, plus a panel of experts, breakout sessions and suggestions for action plans (personal and communal). Additional information at [www.paxchristi.com/earthday](http://www.paxchristi.com/earthday).



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

**Rehearsal Saturday, December 19, 9:00am–12:00pm RSVP**

Attention 3rd and 4th grade children! Calling all wise men and women, sheep and shepherds, angels and bell ringers! We're gathering a cast of third and fourth-graders to re-enact the Nativity story at the 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. The program is a visual portrayal of the Christmas story; therefore, there are no “lines” to memorize. In order to participate, all children - along with a parent - must attend the only rehearsal which will be held at Pax Christi on Saturday, December 19, 9:00am-12:00pm. Children who register will be randomly assigned a role on a first-come, first-served basis until all parts have been assigned. You and your child will be notified via email once the parts have been assigned. By December 8, please register online.

Register online at [www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration](http://www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration).

### SCOTLAND IRELAND TOUR WITH FR. BILL MURTAUGH

**June 13-23, 2016 RSVP**

Immerse yourself in the beauty, the history, and the many sites in these two special countries. Be one of those going. Space is limited! To learn more about this special pilgrimage, please contact Magi Travel at 952-949-0065 with questions.

# DECEMBER

See pages 18-19 for details or visit us online at [www.paxchristi.com](http://www.paxchristi.com).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE	2 FAITH FORMATION RCIA	3	4 FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL 30 HOUR FAMINE	5 HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AND BAKE SALE SHARE THE JOY SIGN-UP
6 SHARE THE JOY SIGN-UP CAROLING AT CARE CENTERS FAITH FORMATION	7 FIC FACILITATOR TRAINING	8 OPENING CELEBRATION JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY COMMUNITY WIDE POTLUCK	9 FAITH FORMATION RCIA	10	11	12 NAME TAG WEEKEND FAITH FORMATION BOOMERS' HOLIDAY PARTY
13 NAME TAG WEEKEND COMMUNITY FORMATION ADVENT CELEBRATION	14	15 LEADERSHIP MEETINGS	16 FAITH FORMATION RCIA	17 HOMELESS MARCH	18	19 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS REHEARSAL
20	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2

## A NOTE ABOUT: YEAR END GIVING

**STOCK:** If you are interested in donating stock to Pax Christi Catholic Community before December 31, 2015, please contact Anne Swenson in the parish office, 952-405-7202, to begin the process. It is easy to do and offers tax advantages to the donor when donating stock that has appreciated in value. Consult with your financial planner for more details. Don't wait until the last week of the year, because it can take a few days to process a stock gift.

**CHECKS/CASH:** Gifts of checks and cash can be given in the baskets during Masses at the collection or dropped off anytime during office hours. We also have an after hour's box located behind the receptionist desk at Door 3.

**CREDIT CARDS:** You can give via credit card by visiting the Pax Christi web site and clicking on the 'make a donation' link and following the instructions for credit card giving. This is especially easy at year end.

**AUTOMATIC BILL PAY:** A number of members use automatic bill pay to make their contributions. Set up Pax Christi in your online bill pay program with your bank, and your contribution can easily be posted to your member record.

**For more information please contact Anne Swenson in the parish office, 952-405-7202.**





**PAX CHRISTI  
CONTACTS**

**PASTOR**

Fr. Bill Murtaugh 952-405-7245

**SR ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTACT**

Fr. Herb Hayek, O.P. 952-405-7219

**DEACONS**

Al Schroeder 952-405-7205  
Terry Beer 952-405-7231  
Charles Bobertz 952-405-7239

**PARISH DIRECTOR**

Jane Schmitz 952-405-7238

**PARISH FINANCIAL MANAGER**

Anne Swenson 952-405-7202

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

Maria Miller 952-405-7217

**COMMUNICATION ARTS** *Editor*

Melissa Nault 952-405-7221

**FAITH FORMATION**

Director	Lynn Schelitzche	952-405-7230
Middle School/Senior High	Peter Bierer	952-405-7210
Preschool through Grade 6	Reneé Dignan	952-405-7212
Middle School Coordinator	Michelle Frederick	952-405-7213

**OPERATIONS**

Director	Ken Reineccius	952-405-7250
Building Services Coord.	Al Haider	952-405-7234
Building Services	Terry Lee	952-405-7233
Building Services	Todd Nelson	952-405-7233

**PASTORAL CARE**

Director	Jean Thoresen	952-405-7211
Pastoral Care Specialist	Mary Ann Callahan	952-405-7227

**STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT**

Director	Mary Kennedy	952-405-7220
Nursery and Hospitality Coord.	Janelle McBeain	952-405-7242

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

Director	Donna Kasbohm	952-405-7240
Weddings/Liturgy	Sally Bergum	952-405-7229
Teen Choir	Angie O'Brien	952-405-7243
Children's Choir	Lonne Murphy	952-405-7247

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Fr. William Murtaugh  
Jane Schmitz, Parish Director  
Mary Beth Buckman  
Mark Cox  
Mike Karas  
Pat Kelly  
Mike Kennedy  
Marcia Kladek  
Joan Pare  
Mike Schneider  
Joe Stich  
Wayne Ward

**PARISH TRUSTEES**

Shari Steffen  
Bruce Koehn

**FINANCE COUNCIL**

Peter Rasmussen, Chair



**JAY W. FILLMORE**  
**REMODELING & REPAIR**  
 Lic # BC-20389035  
 Decks • Floors • Kitchens • Baths  
 Additions • Siding • Roofing  
 No Job Too Small 651-423-3301  
 jwfillmore@comcast.net • Cell 651-238-3054

**BONNIE BOHN**  
 Trusted advisor.  
 Real estate agent.  
**Bonnie Bohn.com**  
 612.382.7880

**MARY KAY**  
**Lu Ann Polve**  
 Independent Beauty Consultant  
 6274 Ginger Drive  
 Eden Prairie, MN 55346  
 Call for a Free Facial or Career Opportunity  
 612-803-9233

Free Estimates • References Available • Fully Insured  
**DENNIS HEIGL PAINTER**  
**DENNIS HEIGL PAINTING, LLC**  
 Interior: Painting & Staining • Water Damage  
 Wallpaper & Texture Removal  
 Exterior: Painting & Staining  
 DENNIS HEIGL Golden Valley  
 (763) 543-0998 Cell (612) 819-2438

**The Neighborhood Place**  
 Jerry's Foods - Eden Prairie  
 9555 Andersons Lakes Parkway  
 Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344  
**JERRY'S**  
 eat • bowl • play  
 Great Breakfast! (Sat. & Sun.)  
 tuttlesbowling.com  
 107 Shady Oak Rd. • 952-938-4090

**Frank Govekar**  
 General Manager  
**ABRA**  
 AUTO BODY & GLASS  
 952.937.3488  
 60 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, MN 55317  
 Fax: 952.937.5741 • Email: fgovekar@abraauto.com

**Benjamin Franklin**  
*If there's any delay, it's you we pay!*  
 Drain Cleaning, Plumbing, Heating!  
 952-931-9676 Lic: PD643703

**HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY**  
**CALL NOW! 1-888-891-6806**  
 ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER  
 HOME SECURITY TEAM

**Tuttle's**  
 NEW Expanded Game Room  
 eat • bowl • play  
 Great Breakfast! (Sat. & Sun.)  
 tuttlesbowling.com  
 107 Shady Oak Rd. • 952-938-4090

**Free GREAT GARAGE DOOR CO.**  
 SAME DAY SERVICE  
 NEW DOORS OPENERS  
 Estimates (952) 939-9999

**HOW'S YOUR BLACKTOP?**  
**PLEHAL BLACKTOPPING**  
 Driveway & Parking Lots  
 Patching Crack Filling & Sealing  
 Residential & Commercial  
 952-445-7676  
 CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ASSESSMENT

**CatholicMatch Minnesota**

**A-Z RENTAL CENTER**  
 Eden Prairie  
 (952) 944-8040  
 www.AtoZrents.com  
 Special Events  
 (952) 944-6916

**Your Ad Here**  
 SUPPORT OUR PARISH THROUGH LOCAL ADVERTISING  
 Contact Bud Bien to place an ad today!  
 VBien@4LPi.com or 952-852-4031

**MOORE CHIROPRACTIC**  
 A FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER  
 (952) 926-7515  
 6600 France Ave. So., #206, Edina  
 www.moorechiropractic.org  
 drcasey@moorechiropractic.org

**CatholicMatch Minnesota**  
 CatholicMatch.com/MN

**find out how far your heart can reach**  
 Millions of people overseas depend on you. PLEASE HELP.  
 1-888-354-0060  
 CRS.ORG/cb  
**OCRS** faith. action. results.  
 CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

**TECHNICRETE®**  
 IS THE ONLY CONCRETE WITH A LIFETIME, NO-CRACK GUARANTEE.

**Clover Cleaners**  
 Same day Service  
 Family owned and operated since 1972  
 944-0508  
 9342 Ensign Ave. So.  
 Bloomington Ferry At Hwy 169  
 (near McDonald's)

**Parishioner**  
 Phil Cole, Parishioner

**LOMMEN ABDO LAW FIRM**  
 Phil Cole, Parishioner  
 www.lommen.com  
 612.339.8131

**ALWAYS Kids in the car**

**HAGE CONCRETE WORKS**  
 SINCE 1930  
 612-861-4243

**PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE**  
 PUSH TALK 24/7 HELP  
 \$19.95\*/Mo. + 1 FREE MONTH  
 No Long-Term Contracts  
 Price Guarantee  
 American Made  
 TOLL FREE: 1-877-801-7772  
 \*First Three Months

**Huber FUNERAL HOMES**  
 & Cremation Services  
 Excelsior Chapel • 952-474-9595 Mound Chapel • 952-472-1716  
 Eden Prairie Chapel • 952-949-4970  
 www.huberfunerals.com

**ALWAYS Kids in the car**

**Washburn - McReavy**  
 Funeral Chapels & Cremation Services

**Bremer Bank**  
 11800 Singletree Lane  
 Eden Prairie • 952-944-6262  
 1-800-908-BANK • Bremer.com  
 Member FDIC

**Werness Bros Bloomington Chapel** • 952-884-8145  
 2300 W Old Shakopee Road

**Eden Prairie** • 952-975-0400  
 2 Blks N. of Hwy 5 on Mitchell Road

**Dawn Valley Chapel & Memorial Gardens**  
 952-941-7686 • 9940 Bush Lake Road

**PUDAS LANDSCAPE & Construction**  
 Landscaping ★ Residential Roofing  
 Quality you can trust!  
 Call Rich Pudas (952) 201-9006

**SPREAD THE WORD!**  
**Shop Our Advertisers!**

**www.washburn-mcreavy.com**

**www.huberfunerals.com**

**www.lommen.com**

**www.AtoZrents.com**

**SPREAD THE WORD! Shop Our Advertisers!**

**LI LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS**

For ad info. call Bud Bien at 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

Pax Christi, Eden Prairie, MN

**YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!**



**Notre Dame Academy –**  
Your regional Catholic school



Call 952.358.3500  
or visit [nda-mn.org](http://nda-mn.org)  
for more information  
or to schedule a tour.



13505 Excelsior Blvd.  
Minnetonka MN 55345



**Suburban Waste Services**  
"your hometown garbage hauler"  
952-937-8900

**MinnCo BUILDERS**  
ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS • GUTTERS  
Eden Prairie Company

**Denied? Partial Repair?  
Unhappy with your insurance claim?**

**WE CAN HELP!**  
952-224-0026  
[www.minncobuilders.com](http://www.minncobuilders.com)  
*MinnCo Builders are not public adjusters*

**Office Furniture Outlet Store!**  
*Open 7 days a week*



Desks, chairs, conference tables and more!

**Modern Office**  
6900 Shady Oak Rd. • Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
(952) 941-2837 / Open M-F, 9AM-5PM  
[www.ModernOfficeFurniture.com](http://www.ModernOfficeFurniture.com)



**BAYMONT**  
INN & SUITES  
(952) 942.9000

- Centrally located with close access to freeways
- Free Continental Breakfast
- 7740 Flying Cloud Dr. • Eden Prairie


**Aging Joyfully**  
*A Residential Elder-care Facility*

High quality, personalized care for elders  
13050 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347  
[www.agingjoyfully.com](http://www.agingjoyfully.com) 952-941-2510



**St. FRANCIS CHIROPRACTIC & WELLNESS**

Carrie E. Clark, D.C. • Christopher D. Jo, D.C.  
David R. Patterson, D.C.  
(952) 920-4528 • [www.edinachiropractic.com](http://www.edinachiropractic.com)



**COTY CONSTRUCTION**  
Building Lifelong Customers Since 1978  
952-934-7600  
Lic. HBC031519

Roofing • Siding • Windows • Decks  
Exterior Remodeling  
Roofing • Siding • Decks • Windows  
[www.cotyconstruction.com](http://www.cotyconstruction.com)

**MIDWEST BONDING** JC Christensen, Agent  
St. Paul, MN  
Toll Free: 866-846-2245

(952) 808-1600  
855-375-BAIL



**Joe Greco Bank of America Home Loans**  
Senior Mortgage Loan Officer  
NMLS ID: 400525  
612-590-4784 Cell  
[joe.greco@bankofamerica.com](mailto:joe.greco@bankofamerica.com)  
[mortgage.bankofamerica.com/joegreco](http://mortgage.bankofamerica.com/joegreco)



(612) 986-0303  
KTeaver@gmail.com  
KimTeaver.com

**K+T**  
We're ready to help  
Call today for a free consultation

**Kim Teaver and Company, llc**  
Your Single Source for Professional Estate & Moving Sale Services Since 2007

**Your Ad Here**

SUPPORT OUR PARISH THROUGH LOCAL ADVERTISING  
Contact Bud Bien to place an ad today!  
VBien@4LPi.com or 952-852-4031

• Sales experience preferred • Full-time  
• Competitive benefits program offered  
• Overnight travel required

**Boyer** Lic #2988  
**Building Corporation**

952-475-2097

- New Homes
- Remodeling
- Kitchens & Baths

**Impact**  
Power to Connect

Customer Communications  
Marketing Strategy • Data Analytics  
Contact Jan at 612-638-1433

**the retreat**

Concerned about someone's alcohol or drug dependency? We can help.

**RECOVERY STARTS HERE**  
(952) 476-5934  
[www.theretreat.org](http://www.theretreat.org)

**MetroProMedia**  
Electronic Systems for Home & Business  
Entertain • Protect • Control

Frank Wisniewski 612.363.0321  
[www.metropromedia.com](http://www.metropromedia.com)

**Marshall's farm market**  
Home Grown Fruits, Vegetables & Cut Flowers  
952-217-9573  
9100 Eden Prairie Rd. • Eden Prairie, MN 55347

**EthanRobert CONSTRUCTION**

Baths  
Kitchens  
Repair  
Remodeling

612-987-8666  
[www.ethanrobert.com](http://www.ethanrobert.com) Lic# BC630671

**Bell Mortgage**

Mark Sicora  
Senior Mortgage Banker  
NMLS # 338048  
612.750.5508  
[marksicora.com](http://marksicora.com)

[bellbanks.com](http://bellbanks.com) | A Division of Bell State Bank & Trust

**4LPi** BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

**DREAM JOB**

- Growing company hiring Ad Sales Executives
- Sales experience preferred • Full-time
- Overnight travel required • Uncapped commissions
- Competitive benefits program

E-mail [jobs@4LPi.com](mailto:jobs@4LPi.com) for more information

**SPREAD THE WORD!**  
**Shop Our Advertisers!**

**YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!**

**BIAGGI'S**  
RISTORANTE ITALIANO

**PRONTO PACK**

Biaggi's Pronto Pack is the perfect way to enjoy a great meal at home or on the go! It's perfectly sized to serve 4-5 people and includes the salad and pasta of your choice and our freshly baked bread with Biaggi's Butter for dipping.

**\$35.00** (plus tax)

EDEN PRAIRIE CENTER  
(952) 942.8555 • [www.BIAGGIS.com](http://www.BIAGGIS.com)

**St. Therese** Senior Apartments, Assisted Living, Memory Care & Adult Day Program  
[www.sttheresesouthwest.com](http://www.sttheresesouthwest.com)  
952-236-1783

**THE GLENN**  
by St. Therese Southwest  
[www.theglennseniorhousing.com](http://www.theglennseniorhousing.com)  
952-232-1606

**MAINSTREET Bar Grill**  
HOPKINS  
Bob & Jan Byer, Parishioners  
Open Daily: 11-2 a.m. • Weekend Brunch: 10-2 p.m.  
Party Facility available for Private Parties

814 Mainstreet Hopkins, MN  
(952) 938-2400  
[mainstreetbar.com](http://mainstreetbar.com)

Jody J. O'Brien, D.D.S.  
Holly McMahon, D.D.S.  
952.445.6657  
[www.obrientalcare.com](http://www.obrientalcare.com)

**O'Brien DENTAL CARE**

**www.JeanneMillet.com**  
Serving SW Buyers/Sellers  
Free Downsize Home Consultation  
Realtor Since 1996/Parishioner  
Bjorklund Realty Inc.   
(952) 944-0025

**PARISHESonline**  
Largest online directory of Catholic Churches

**NEVER MISS A BULLETIN!**  
Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin emailed to you at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)

**PROVIDENCE ACADEMY**



Providence Academy... A school like no other.  
New financial aid and grants available.

**maid right**  
LIFE IS SHORT. CLEAN LESS.  
[www.maidrightminneapolis.com](http://www.maidrightminneapolis.com)

952-479-0909  
Kevin & Sue Johnson

**HHW**  
HULTGREN, HOXIE & WAKI  
ORTHODONTICS  
Our doctors & team support  
all Eden Prairie Community sports & activities  
Eden Prairie • Minnetonka • Chaska • Waconia • Mound  
[hhorthodontics.com](http://hhorthodontics.com) 952-937-0111

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

[www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)

**HW**  
HOFFMAN WEBER CONSTRUCTION

Roofing, Siding, Windows, Interiors  
(763) 566-2124 | [hwconstruction.com](http://hwconstruction.com)

**SUMMIT PLACE**  
"The Peak of Senior Living"  
Senior Townhomes, Apartments,  
Assisted Living and Memory Care  
Eden Prairie • 952.995.1000  
[www.summitplaceseniorcampus.com](http://www.summitplaceseniorcampus.com)

**Edina Realty**

**Cristy Willis** (952) 356-7585  
[cristywillis@edinarealty.com](mailto:cristywillis@edinarealty.com)

**Mosiah Willis** (612) 708-0871  
[mosiahwillis@edinarealty.com](mailto:mosiahwillis@edinarealty.com)

- Professional Home Cleaning Service
- Highly Trained Cleaning Teams
- Weekly, Bi-Weekly or Monthly Cleanings
- Exclusive Disinfecting Process
- A Guaranteed Clean Home!

Call For a Free Estimate  
Special Offer - mention this ad and get: **\$50 Off**  
\*\*(\$25 off 1st 2 cleans with recurring service)\*\*

**LionsTap**  
"Famous Hamburgers"  
Eden Prairie 952-934-5299  
Bert & Bonnie Notermann [www.lionstap.com](http://www.lionstap.com)





Church of Pax Christi of Eden Prairie  
12100 Pioneer Trail  
Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #3844  
TWIN CITIES, MN

**PLEASE DELIVER  
BY NOVEMBER 30.**

Change Service Requested

# Pax Christi's Annual Holiday Boutique and Bake Sale

**Saturday, December 5, 9:00am–3:00pm**

Start your holidays in style at Pax Christi's Annual Holiday Boutique and Bake Sale! This shopping extravaganza is for the whole family. It will feature a variety of handcrafted items from over 50 quality crafters and artisans, a bake sale, and luncheon. Come and shop for the perfect holiday gift for everyone on your list. This event is free and there is plenty of parking available. Don't miss out on this Annual Holiday Boutique!

**BAKED GOODS NEEDED:** Bake your favorite cookies, breads, pies, and bring them to the bake sale. Proceeds benefit our youth! Baked goods can be dropped off at the church in Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Room 111, in the lower level on Friday, December 3, 4:00–8:00pm, and Saturday, December 4, 7:30–8:45am.

