PAXCHRISTINE Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie December 2016

MAKE IT AN ADVENT WORTHY OF CHRISTMAS.

Page 10

WALKING IN THE LIGHT!

Join us on a journey from darkness to light. Page 9



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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

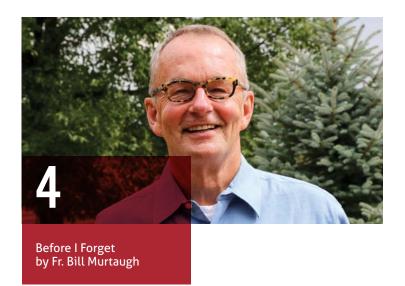
Wednesdays 6:00pm Thursdays 8:30am Fridays 8:30am

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. Email comments or questions to Melissa Nault, Communication Arts Director, mnault@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7221.

COVER PHOTO: Come and visit nature's beauty in Pax Christi's backyard. We are grateful for the loving care provided by Maureen Olafson, Maret and John Ryan, and Larraine and Steve Nau.





Gracing Life with Advent Hope



Using Advent Prophecies at Home



Walking in the Light







Christmas... Season of Light















BEFORE I FORGET...



Fr. Bill Murtaugh Pastor

FOR ALL THE HIGH
DRAMA THAT
SURROUNDS ADVENT,
THE TRUTH IS WE HAVE
A HARD TIME GETTING
INVOLVED IN ITS
MYSTERIES.

AMERICAN THEOLOGIAN Doris Donnelly calls Advent "the most difficult season." She writes, "For all the high drama that surrounds Advent, the truth is we have a hard time getting involved in its mysteries." She suggests two main reasons for this difficulty. First, our society jumps the gun on Christmas and doesn't give Advent a fighting chance. Retailers used to wait until after Thanksgiving to advertise their Christmas wares. Now it begins well before Halloween. It's difficult for the haunting strains of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" to compete with Bing Crosby's "White Christmas," or Elvis Presley's "Blue Christmas," or "Frosty the Snowman" by Michael Bublé. A second reason why many of us find the Advent season difficult is that Advent is all about waiting, and waiting is a countercultural experience. Most Americans don't like to wait for anything, whether we're waiting for a red light to turn green, a dinner to heat up in the microwave, or our strength to return after surgery. Now that we can order almost anything on Amazon, it must be "hell" to actually shop the "oldfashioned" way and wait in line at a register.

Is anything worth the wait?

As we listen to and reflect on the Advent Scripture readings, we will be reminded that God is worth the wait. Not the God who is portrayed as a "vindictive bully," hateful to all but the select few. Those who preach a message about a God who is angry and vengeful are practicing a form of "God abuse." To be fair, so are those who preach a "laissez-faire God" who neither commands our awe nor demands our attention. This God is remarkably distant from our daily affairs, and if present at all, is yawning while sipping an espresso, trying to stay awake while listening to our dispassionate and narcissistic prayer. This is another form of "God abuse."

With the First Sunday of Advent we begin to read the Gospel of Matthew for the new liturgical year of 2016–2017. The God we meet in Matthew could never be accused of being a "vindictive bully," but neither is this God an absentee or disinterested God, distant and aloof, happy for us to do whatever we like whenever we want to do it. The God we meet in Matthew is nothing like that and is well worth the wait.

No one points to God with greater passion than John the Baptist. John points to the new. He announces the arrival of the One who's even greater than the prophets. Everything is about to change. The old is passing away; the new presses in. The long, long night of hopelessness is coming to an end, and John the Baptist is the "rooster" who awakens the sleepy world with his cry that the Messiah (Jesus the Christ) is near.

John the Baptist cries, "Your relationship with God matters. It matters a great deal." For those who think of faith as a family heirloom, something to which they are genetically entitled, John says, "Think again. From these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham." For those who think of faith as an occasional accessory to wear on special occasions, John says, "Think again. One more powerful than I...will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

The God we meet in John the Baptist's preaching is no one's entitlement and will be no one's accessory. John's God will not be squeezed into one's busy schedule. John cries out at the Jordan River that the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. That means time matters, that throughout the day we remember and give glory to

God; that justice matters, and that we are to execute justice for all, but especially for those who are the least; that righteousness matters, and we are to live righteous lives as a sign to the world that God's reign is at hand. The God John points to is the God I want to know much better.

I wonder what would happen if the people who have nothing to do with the church, who have stopped believing, who see no place for religion in their lives, or just suffer from apathy, were to encounter the God John the Baptist preached. His God loves us enough to burn away all the lame excuses that keep us as casual spectators rather than fervent disciples. His God is not a pushover who wants us to do whatever makes us happy. His God is engaged in our lives and loves us and cares for us enough to expect us to repent. John roars, "Repent!" To repent, for John, is to say good bye to one way of living in order to embrace the radical, inbreaking vision of God for our world. It is to live each day with confidence that "the Kingdom of Heaven" will not arrive one day in some distant future, but the "Kingdom of Heaven" has already begun.

In Matthew's Gospel, something decisive happened in that Bethlehem manger, in the



Palestinian wilderness, on that Jerusalem cross, and on that first Easter morning. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the risen Christ is at work in our lives right now, at work in this broken world right now, and God loves us like the most devoted and demanding parent you or I have ever met. Isaac Watts long ago captured the true message of John the Baptist, the only real reason for repentance: "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." Yes, faith is a wild love affair with God.

This Christmas, God invites us to dream, not of "a White Christmas, just like the ones I used to know," but of a world

that has never been but has always been promised. God invites us to open our arms and eyes and hearts to the blessings God gives us, and as we give thanks, to realize that anything is possible...like the Word becoming flesh. The astonishment of the Christmas story, the sheer surprise of that wonderful happening, opens up an opportunity to dream wild dreams, not for ourselves but for the entire human family.

Life is a constant search for meaning. But when we take the risk of journeying in search of God, like the Astrologers-Magi did in search of the newborn king, there will be little epiphanies which shine like stars along the way for us. Some people, through fear, envy, jealousy (e.g. King Herod) tend to kill our dreams because they feel threatened. It can be people in authority or people who pretend to be our friends. They wish to destroy our vision. When we discover this, we must choose a different road to our destination as the Magi did once they were warned by God in a dream. We need to protect ourselves so others do not damage our spirit as we search for God.

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



GRACING LIFE WITH ADVENT HOPE

OUR AUTUMNED HEARTS STAND WAITING

FOR GOD'S GRACIOUS GIFT

COME, LORD JESUS, COME!

GOSPEL UP OUR LIVES WITH YOUR PRESENCE

AND WE'LL WEAR LIGHTS IN OUR HEARTS

INSTEAD OF ON OUR TREES.

-MACRINA WIEDERKEHR

THE FIRST SUNDAY of Advent seems to be an afterthought when it is falls at the end of Thanksgiving weekend, but it is an important beginning to a season that is marked by an invitation of renewal and to enliven hope in our lives. We hear from the prophet Isaiah in each Sunday of the Advent season, a prophet who speaks of hope, justice, and peace for all. The promises of God are made anew this Advent with these ancient texts, with peaceable images of "beating swords into plowshares" (Isaiah 2:4) and "the wolf the guest of the lamb" (Isaiah 11:6), and images of healing and renewal "where the eyes of the blind are opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped" (Isaiah 35:5) and the virgin bearing a son whose name is Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14), a name meaning "God-with-us." These are consoling images as we bump into the frantic ones that often mark this season.

Hope is the encapsulating image from these Hebrew Scripture readings. Hope is one of the trinity of theological virtues. Hope is of God, born of God, and directed to God. It is a desire that what I do, who I am, what I am becoming, has relationship and significance to all that is around me and to God. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a woman of hope, and an example of what patient faithfulness looks like. Because she was born of Jewish origins, she knew well her people's hunger for meaning and truth in their lives, the struggles they endured, and the cause they had to remain faithful to the covenant bestowed on them by their ancestors in faith in their relationship with God, even while in exile as their homes were burned, the walls of their cities destroyed, and their treasures pillaged, particularly during the Babylonian Exile. These people of faith who influenced Mary's life had a

vision of home in their hearts, that even while they were away from their physical heartland, they lived in hope that they would one day be in their homeland again.

Something in us always needs to be called home, to those places in our lives where we arrive and all is in harmony and the fit is right. Advent is a time to reclaim what we have lost in our hearts as we stroll through our days. Advent is not meant to be a cozy, selfsatisfied time in which we wait for the infant Jesus to be born. Advent focuses instead on our own place of exile and whether or not we can say that our relationship with Christ has made a difference in our lives. Have we taken to heart the promises of hope that the life of the Risen Christ holds out to us? Do we have a great yearning in our heart for the sacred? We can look to Mary as she worked through the invitations, the



confusion, the surprises, that being in relationship with God meant for her and the new life that being at home in the life of Christ means.

The experience of bearing new life happens often in the Advents of our lives. When we risk allowing God's life to grow within us, we await in hope, as Mary did, for new life to be born, for the sign of God's presence and continued support to manifest itself, for the "promises of the Lord to be fulfilled" (Luke 1:45). Mary had to have been faithful to God's invitations in her life even before the invitation of the angel Gabriel to bear the son of God. How else could she have been the fertile soil, the

empty vessel, to respond the way she did at the time of the Annunciation? Mary lived in hope, and she is also a model for those who strive to live consciously in God's presence, who seek to respond to the messages and messengers of each day's journey, and who, really, at the end of it all, also believe, with faith, sometimes with tears in our eyes, sometimes with a lump in our throats, but always with a heart of hope, that to us, too, the promises of the Lord will be fulfilled

The invitation is ours to rest in hope and wonder in what the season of Advent means to us.

Written by Jane Schmitz, Parish Director.

An Advent Psalm by Edward Hays

Awaken, my heart,

God's reign is near; the Peaceable Kingdom is in my hands. If the wolf can be the guest of the lamb, and the bear and cow be friends. then no injury or hate can be a guest within the kingdom of my heart. Eden's peace and harmony will only return when first, in my heart, there hides no harm or ruin, for the Peaceable Kingdom is in my hands. Isaiah's dream became Jesus' vision: "Come, follow me," Emmanuel's echo rings. "Reform your life, recover Eden's peace," for only then will salvation appear. For Advent's dream is the healing of earth, when the eagle and bear become friends, the child and the serpent playmates. Arise, awaken, my heart, the Peaceable Kingdom

is in your hands.



USING ADVENT PROPHECIES AT HOME

FIRST PROPHECY - THE CANDLE OF HOPE

The Lord will give you a sign.

Behold, a young woman is with child
and shall bear a son, and will call him Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14

SECOND PROPHECY - THE CANDLE OF PEACE

But you, O Bethlehem,
who are little among
the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel.
–Micah 5:1

THIRD PROPHECY—THE CANDLE OF JOY (pink or white)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them a light shined.

—Isaiah 9:1

FOURTH PROPHECY—THE CANDLE OF LOVE

For to us a child is born
to us a son is given;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
—Isaiah 9:6

IT IS UPLIFTING as we prepare for Christmas to listen to the words that comforted those who watched and waited for the Messiah before Jesus was born. The prophets are people who are very close to God, listen to God, and share God's plans with the people.

The prophecies are a wonderful way to discover more about Jesus. The image of Jesus as the light is loved by and resonates with children. The theme of something great coming from something small is a delight to children: God coming to the world as a little baby, little Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus, a baby named Mighty God and Everlasting Father! God seems to love small things, perhaps small people most of all!

The four candles on an Advent wreath represent Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. During Advent, the four Messianic prophecies highlighted in the box are presented to the children in our Good Shepherd programs, giving them beautiful names and images for Jesus, the Messiah. For an annual family tradition, you can use these at home with an Advent wreath during Advent.

Every evening before dinner during the first week of Advent, recite the first prophecy as you light the first candle on the Advent wreath. During the second week recite the first and the second prophecies as you light the first and the second candles. During the third week, three prophecies and three candles. And in the fourth week, right up until Christmas Eve, recite all four prophecies, one at a time, as you light each candle. Older children enjoy looking these passages up in the bible.

During prayer at meals or bedtime, use the names found in the prophecies. Listen for and discuss with your children all the names you hear for Jesus during this season. What name is your favorite to use in prayer? What name is your favorite to say aloud?

On Christmas Day, you may light a solitary white candle to represent the Light of Jesus, the Light in the darkness, and say, "Today is the day of our dear Jesus' birth! Advent is over, and we celebrate the great feast of Christmas!"

Through these beautiful prophecies, the promise of hope and peace echoes in us and in our children, and recalls years of proclaiming together, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:1).

May the light and peace of Christ be among you during the Advent season. Written by Lynn Schelitzche, Director of Faith Formation.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: WALKING IN THE LIGHT

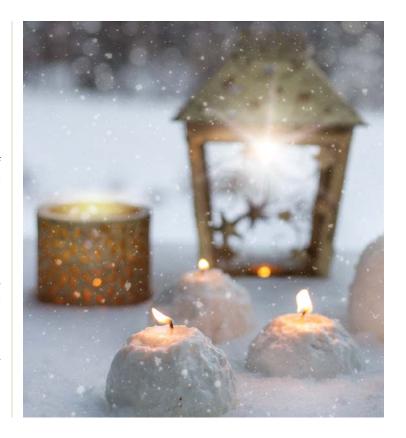
How do we face the darkness in our lives, open our eyes, walk in the Light?

The season of Advent taps into our deep longing to make sense of our world. We wait for miracles to be born, for hatred and prejudice to be acknowledged and resolved, for peace and hope to thrive.

Pope Francis in *The Joy of the Gospel* challenges all Christians to become a "church which is poor and for the poor" (198). How can we hear the needs of people who search for hope in their lives when we cling only to our own wishes and desires? Francis' challenge is at the core of our Advent search to discover the love of God in our own lives and by extension, in the lives of all those around us, those on the fringes, those we choose to ignore.

Join us in reflecting, praying, and singing our journey from darkness to light on **Tuesday, December 6, at 7:00pm**. Opportunities for private confessions will follow our communal service.

Written by Donna Kasbohm, Director of Worship and Liturgy.



BRINGING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO LOCAL CARE CENTERS

OH, it's so snowy ... I am so busy with Christmas preparations ... brrr, it's so cold outdoors ... I have so many things yet to do before Christmas ... and the list went on and on ... that is until last year when I finally said "YES" to Christmas caroling! I signed up at Pax Christi to lead a group of carolers to one of the care centers we visit. I was assigned to Brookdale, a memory loss center in Eden Prairie. As I thought about this, I wondered, since I had never done this before and these people have memory loss, will this be a disaster? But after placing this in God's hands, off we went, my little crew and I, ranging in age from 2 to 74, armed with music, lyrics, jingle bells, and Christmas cards made by the little ones from the parish.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by our audience and staff, who quickly reassured me that the last thing a memory care patient forgot was music. So we assembled, began singing, and before long these very delightful people joined in singing with us. If we took too long choosing our next carol, they chose one, started singing, and we joined them. I have never seen such genuinely happy faces, both the seniors and our carolers. Our children handed out the Christmas cards they had made and gave and received hugs in return.



We were the last group to return to Pax Christi because we were all having such a good time, and the Brookdale residents didn't want us to leave. This was the most rewarding thing I've ever done for Christmas. From now on instead of being on the bottom, it's at the top of my list!

Come join us **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2:00–4:00PM** and ... "WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS." Additional details on page 18.

Written by Anne Kieser, member of Pastoral Care Council.



MAKE IT AN ADVENT WORTHY OF CHRISTMAS

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN
STEWARD? ONE WHO
RECEIVES GOD'S GIFTS
GRATEFULLY, CHERISHES
AND TENDS THEM IN
A RESPONSIBLE AND
ACCOUNTABLE MANNER,
SHARES THEM IN JUSTICE
AND LOVE WITH OTHERS,
AND RETURNS THEM WITH
INCREASE TO THE LORD.
STEWARDSHIP; A DISCIPLES
RESPONSE, USCCB.

ADVENT is the season of anticipation and preparation. We are asked to try to slow it all down, to prepare our hearts to make room for the Christ Child, just as the commercial world ramps up to spin crazily out of control, calling for each of us to buy, Buy, and BUY some more in order to have the Best, Greatest, most Awesome Christmas ever. But before the wrapping paper can be discarded, the consumer world will have moved on to the next holiday on the horizon, after-Christmas and

Valentine's Day sales, with more exhortations to join the masses and spend, Spend, SPEND.

Stop. Breathe. Consider. What is the reason for the season? What are we anticipating? Who are we preparing to see? In the stillness of the season, we can prepare our hearts to receive the gift of the Christ Child. We can achieve this by following the tenants of *Stewardship as Way of Life* as laid out by the US Bishops in 1992 when they first wrote the Pastoral Letter on Stewardship.

Receive our gifts gratefully. Have you made a place in your life for the gifts you have been given? This is the season of delight for the senses — the aroma of Christmas cookies baking, the sight of the quiet neighborhood after a soft blanket of snow, or the delight when we witness a dazzling Christmas light display, the strains of Christmas music erasing stress from the busiest of days. All of these experiences remind us how blessed we are to hear, see, and smell — and all are gifts from God. The clothes on our backs, the roof over our heads, and the job or school we attend are all gifts we have been given, as are the brains and abilities we use every day to succeed. Count the blessings you have received in

your many gifts, and be thankful that you were the recipient of God's bountiful generosity.

Cherish and tend our gifts in a responsible and accountable manner. What steps have you taken to make the most of the gifts you have been given? Celebrate and develop the gift of your friends and family by reaching out with a Christmas card or a letter telling the person of your appreciation. Submerge yourself in the gift of our environment by taking the whole family for a nature walk. Less is more: Is there clutter in your life that can be reduced and repurposed to make someone else's life better? Carve out some time for prayer and reflection; a few minutes a day spent in private conversation with God can become a welcome mini-retreat from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

Share our gifts in justice and love with others. The old adage "It's better to give than to receive" is so very true. Share your love of your neighbors by shoveling their walk or taking the time to have a conversation while sharing a cup of coffee or cocoa. Gather the family or friends together and have each choose an activity that the

group can do together over the next few weeks. The storyteller might choose that the group read favorite Christmas stories together, the baker could suggest a Christmas Cookie Exchange, the arranger might encourage everyone to come together to power-clean one room as a group, then pick someone else's room the next time, until everyone enjoys organized and tidy personal spaces. The money manager could suggest a group coin hunt, finding all the leftover change in the sofa cushions, on the dresser, in the jacket pockets, and then together the group could discern a suitable project in which to gift this rediscovered fortune. Whatever you choose to do, try to keep it simple, make it fun, and fit with the gifts you have been given. Share the gift of YOU to the people and organizations that are important to you and your faith.

Return our gifts with increase to the Lord. After this season of anticipation has been completed, present the gift of a fully prepared YOU to the Christ Child on Christmas Day.

Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development.

DECEMBER ARRIVES, AND I SMILE AND MY THOUGHTS TURN TO ...

...snow and cold

...Christmas

...time with my family

...Advent and Midnight Mass that feed my soul

EVEN AS THESE WORDS stir your own memories, we are reminded that for some, the strain of December only adds to their struggle. Warmer clothing is needed for those growing children; the cold nights present a challenge in finding a warm place to sleep; increasing heating bills may require extra hours at work or a second job.

Since 1989, Pax Christi has awarded over \$4 million in grants to local organizations to help the needy. Currently, our focus has been on serving the needs of the homeless and education of children in poverty.

LAST JULY, GRANTS WERE AWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING:

Blessed Trinity Catholic School: \$10,000

Providing aid to low-income families in extended-day programming.

Centro Guadalupano: \$6,000

Supporting an after-school program for elementary-age children of Latino immigrant parents and low-income families.

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School: \$15,000

Assisting in covering the costs of education, job, and support services for high school students from low-income families.

Risen Christ Catholic School: \$20,000

Providing tuition scholarships for elementary students.

Cabrini Partnership: \$10,000

Providing housing and services for those with mental health and drug addiction issues.

St. Stephen's Human Services: \$15,000

Supporting emergency shelter, meals, laundry, and beds for the homeless.

Small Sums: \$15,000

Supplying clothing and equipment necessary for the homeless to begin new employment.

begin new employment

YouthLink: \$12,000

Assisting with case management for residents of homeless youth.



There are many opportunities for you to become involved with these organizations on a personal level. Tutors are needed at the schools. Volunteer opportunities are available at their respective locations for holiday events and winter/spring celebrations. Individual announcements for these will be posted in upcoming eNews and displayed on the bulletin boards in January. All grant recipients will be included in the January Justice Ministry Showcase. And as always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact Marcia Kladek, marsk1030@gmail.com, or 952-240-4775.

As you move through December and all that it means to you, imagine yourself in the shoes of the needy. Standing beside them, you are made aware that to give truly is to receive.

Submitted by Marcia Kladek, chair of the Pax Christi Justice Grants Board.



CHRISTMAS... SEASON OF LIGHT

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, in one of his Daily Mediations, suggests that we substitute the word "Blueprint" for Word.

In the beginning was the Word...
and the Word (Blueprint) was with God,
and the Word (Blueprint) was God...
All things came to be through God,
and without God nothing came to be.
What came to be through God was life
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome it. —John 1:1-5

God's Word (Blueprint) is at work in the world now. Today! Paul says to us in the book of Acts: "God is not far from any of us. It is in God that we live and move and have our very being." (Acts 17:28)

The scriptures for the season of Christmas invite us to reexamine our expectations. Where do we seek God? Where do we find God? We are invited to seek God in the Word, in Sacrament, in Community, in Creation, in each other, in our children, in those living on the fringes of our society. We celebrate the Mystery of God's loving Presence, dwelling among us as the Light of the World.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00pm Walking in the Light

We gather as a faith community to examine our actions and attitudes through prayer, song, and reflection in light of Pope Francis' call to embrace a "culture of care" and to remind ourselves of the part we play in God's Blueprint for us — reflecting the Light of Christ to others. Additional information on page 9.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY December 8

8:30am and 6:00pm Holy Day Masses



CHRISTMAS EVE Saturday, December 24

2:00pm Children's Christmas Eve Mass with Stories and Songs

Third and Fourth Graders, the Pax Christi Children's choir, and Pax Christi Middle Schoolers will lead *Stories and Songs*; A celebration of Life-Light! preceding the Mass at the new 2:00pm time. Additional information on page 16.

4:00pm Candlelight Mass

We celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, and we recall the times we have experienced Christ's presence in our lives.

6:00pm and 7:30pm Christmas Eve Masses

As we anticipate Christmas, we gather as Pax Christi, a community of peace, to celebrate the Life-Light of God, the peace of Christ, which has come into the world.

9:30pm *Lessons and Carols*

10:00 pm Solemn Celebration of Christmas

The Scriptures of Advent and Christmas recall and invite us to ponder the marvel and mystery of the Incarnation, God becoming One of Us, revealing through Jesus what was true everywhere, for everyone, and for all time.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25

9:00am and 11:00 am Christmas Day Masses

God's Word is at work in the world right now. We journey together enjoying the full and timeless presence of our God in our lives, revealing the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY January 1

Regular weekend Mass and reconciliation schedule.

We ponder the mystery of the Word (Blueprint) — God's Word, God's Presence, and what that means for our daily actions in the world.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY January 8

Regular weekend Mass and reconciliation schedule.

We do not "look at" the Light, we "become" the Light. We walk in the Light that guides and reveals our path as we work, for justice, peace, and mercy.

Written by Donna Kasbohm, Director of Liturgy and Music, and Joan Howe-Pullis, Justice and Liturgy Coordinator.

ADVENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 27 2016 SCHEDULE

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Private)

Saturdays, November 26, December 3, 10, 17 3:30-4:30pm

First Sunday of Advent November 27

Second Sunday of Advent December 4

Advent Reconciliation ServiceWalking in the Light

Opportunity for individual confessions following the service.

Feast of the Immaculate ConceptionDecember 8Morning Mass8:30amMass6:00pm

Third Sunday of Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve December 24 Stories and Songs, followed by 1:45pm Children's Christmas Eve Mass 2:00pm Fr. Murtaugh Christmas Mass Fr. Murtaugh 4:00pm Christmas Mass Fr. Paveglio 6:00pm Christmas Mass Fr. McMichael 7:30pm Lessons and Carols, followed by 9:30pm Solemn Celebration of Christmas Fr. Paveglio 10:00pm

PLEASE NOTE: The nursery will be closed December 24/25.

Christmas DayDecember 25Christmas MassFr. Murtaugh9:00amChristmas MassFr. Paveglio11:00am

No 5:00pm Mass, building closed.

PLEASE NOTE: The nursery will be closed December 24/25.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and JosephDecember 27
Regular Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule

Feast of Mary, Mother of GodDecember 31/January 1December 31Fr. Paveglio5:00pmJanuary 1Fr. Paveglio9:00amJanuary 1Fr. Murtaugh11:00amJanuary 1Fr. Murtaugh5:00pm

Feast of the Epiphany

January 8

December 11

December 18

Regular Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule



WE WELCOME JESSIE JOHNSON, PAX CHRISTI'S NEW SR. HIGH YOUTH FORMATION MINISTER!

AS PAX CHRISTI'S outgoing Senior High Youth Formation Minister, it is my privilege to introduce my friend and successor, Jessie Johnson! We spent the first 17 days of November working together creating "a peaceful transition of power." I have known Jessie for years and I'm excited that she is here at Pax Christi!

PETER BIERER: Hi Jessie! I think we should introduce you to the people of Pax Christi!

JESSIE JOHNSON: Hi Peter! I think you're right. But then again, you're always right.

PETER: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

JESSIE: Sure! I grew up in Bemidji with my parents and one sister. I love Indian food, nerdy board games, national parks, and baking my world-famous chocolate chip cookies. I'm a borderline introvert-extrovert, and I don't understand why people like pretzels. I love singing and I dabble in a few different musical instruments, including the violin, guitar, and cajon (box drum). I also played the cowbell in my college pep band.

PETER: You've been in youth ministry for a while. What is your previous experience as a youth minister?

JESSIE: After college, I spent four years as a youth minister at a church in Pittsburgh, PA. After that, I came back to Minnesota and took a position coordinating the Youth in Theology and Ministry program at St. John's School of Theology. Actually, that's how I met you, Peter! I've also gotten to meet several youth from Pax Christi who have been part of the program over the last few years. I'm excited to get back into the more creative and relational work of faith formation and youth ministry here at Pax!

PETER: If you could be a mythical creature, what would you be?

JESSIE: Growing up, I was obsessed with Ariel from The Little Mermaid...probably because of my red hair. But I also really liked the idea of being able to breathe underwater and wear cool jewelry made out of coral. Something about that still appeals to me, so I'm going to stick with being a mermaid.

PETER: Very interesting. What do you think are the most important issues facing young people today?

JESSIE: I know so many incredible young people doing amazing things to make our world a better place, but it seems like they are often hugely underestimated. Young people have energy and gifts that are great assets to our church and world, and I think adults often miss out because we're so focused on what's wrong with teenagers instead of what's right with them!

PETER: Good answer. I would have said something similar, only different. You went to college, right? Where did you go?

JESSIE: I went to the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University from 2005-2009. I got a degree in theology with a concentration in pastoral ministry.

PETER: Cool, cool. Good school. Hmmm. What's your Patronus (personal guardian creature from the Harry Potter series)? Mine is a Bay Stallion because I'm awesome.

JESSIE: Mine is a Badger because I'm sneaky.

PETER: Wow. That's probably rare, right? You worked for Youth in Theology and Ministry, and Pax Christi has had several youth attend the YTM Summer Institute. Is there anything from YTM that you will bring with you in your ministry to Pax Christi youth and families?

JESSIE: Through YTM, I've witnessed firsthand young people's ability to be thoughtful, engaged, and capable leaders in our church and world. I've gained a deeper appreciation of the vocational challenges and opportunities facing today's young people, and have acquired some tools that are helpful in walking with them as they discern various steps and decisions in their lives. Plus, I learned how to make some pretty fantastic Excel spreadsheets.

PETER: Thanks Jessie! You're going to be a great youth minister for Pax Christi!

Seriously though, Jessie is one of my favorite people on the planet, and I know you will enjoy getting to know her and support her in ministry!

MEET BARB AND FRED POLLMAN

FOR OVER 30 years, Pax Christi has been partnering with Loaves and Fishes to feed the hungry. A dedicated group of volunteers from church meet at the old St. Stephen's School in Minneapolis on the third Wednesday of every month to help fulfill this mission. There are 45 people on the volunteer list, and 1/3 come every month. Barb and Fred Pollman belong to this group. They speak passionately about the "guests who may be receiving the only meal they'll get for awhile."

When Barb began serving 25 years ago, there were mostly mothers and young children, but now the majority of the guests are homeless or simply the working poor. Occasionally there are still children who come in with parents. "The volunteers serve people who are seriously in need and can't provide meals for themselves." Most of the guests come not only for a free meal but for the social time it allows them and the chance to get out of the weather.

The hot meal is always made from scratch. They make a nutritious beef and vegetable stew, hot garlic bread, fruit, and another side. The meal begins at 5:15pm and then at 6:00pm they make a call for seconds. They even make to-go bags for the guests with any other leftovers. There is a Prep Group (2:00–4:00pm) and a Serving and Cleanup Group (5:00–7:00pm). Barb makes the salads and does a head count of guests. Fred is referred to as a jack of all trades because he helps wherever he's needed. He started serving regularly 15 years ago after he retired.

"Most people in the suburbs don't see this part of life, and it is eyeopening. It changes you and gives you a different perspective." The volunteer crew do work hard, but they enjoy every moment spent serving others and the fellowship of other volunteers. The time they give is certainly multiplied by all the blessings that others receive from this Christ centered and life-giving ministry. If you'd like to join them, please contact Fred Pollman at fpollman@aol.com.

Written by Liz Georgioff, Pax Christi parishioner.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PAX CHRISTI TUTOR PROGRAM?

PARISHIONER ED OGRIN coordinates Pax Christi's member engagement with schools in need here in the Twin Cities. For 12 years, Ed has served in the ministry of tutoring at Risen Christ Catholic School and for seven years at Blessed Trinity School.

There is a great need for more volunteer tutors. Ed reports that the schools we serve will take as many volunteer tutors as are available. He would like to see the number of Pax volunteers double or triple. Currently, we have 12 Pax Christi Volunteers at five Catholic Schools in the Minneapolis area, namely Blessed Trinity, Cristo Rey, Risen Christ, St Helena, and Ascension. Most of our volunteers tutor at either Blessed Trinity or Risen Christ.

The Pax Christi Tutor Program relies on identifying persons through the shared ministry signup sheet that we receive as part of the stewardship program. Tutors can volunteer at any time during the school year. Before they can tutor, volunteers will need to pass a background check and have completed Virtus Training. The volunteers will meet with the schools' volunteer coordinators to set up their tutoring.

Many of our tutors provide math tutoring, but volunteers are also needed in literacy, social studies, science, and religion. Pax Tutors meet with the volunteer coordinators at the schools and work under the direction of a classroom teacher who provides the volunteer with a lesson plan. Volunteers who speak Spanish fluently are needed to assist in Risen Christ Schools' dual-language program. Spanish fluency is valuable as many of the current students come from Spanish speaking families. Tutors do not need to have been teachers,



but should have a genuine interest in working with students. The schools and classroom teachers welcome and appreciate the work being done by the volunteer teachers. Volunteer tutors are considered mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect.

Tutors volunteer during the school day, typically working one-onone with students, but may also work with small groups. Volunteers generally volunteer one or two times a week for one, two, or more hours. Ed said he regularly sees four students for 45 minutes each over a three-hour period.

The schools report that volunteer tutors boost the confidence of the students and empower students to learn. Volunteers get satisfaction from seeing the growth in the students.

If this sounds inspiring to you, please take a few minutes to fill out the shared ministry signup sheet that you received in your stewardship packet. Spend some time talking with Ed Ogrin, eogrin@comcast. net, about this wonderful experience and discover if this is one way you might be called to serve!

Written by Joan Howe-Pullis, Justice and Liturgy Coordinator.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE PAX CHRISTI CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

We are still open to enthusiastic singers between grades 2 and 6. We rehearse on Sundays at 10:00am and usually sing at one Mass each month. We will also be singing at the Children's Mass at 2:00pm on Christmas Eve (yes, it is a different time this year). You do not need to make each rehearsal or Mass to participate. Come to rehearsal Sunday mornings at 10:00am in the chapel to find out more! Contact Amanda Tahnk-Johnson, Amanda.TahnkJohnson@gmail.com, with questions or concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS FOR 3RD AND 4TH GRADE YOUTH

This year we have a NEW SCRIPT and an EARLIER TIME!

Each year, Pax Christi's young people take the lead in being ministers of the word and music for a special Children's Christmas Eve Mass. This is one of our most treasured traditions here at Pax Christi and we are very excited to announce that this year, we have a new script, a new format, and a new time for this very special opportunity to lead the community's Christmas Eve Children's liturgy.

Third and fourth-grade students are invited to participate in telling the Christmas Story in word and song for the 2:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

The Pax Christi Children's Choir, whose members are 2nd through 6th graders, will support the music for this special Children's Christmas Mass.

Rehearsal is Saturday, December 17. Christmas Eve Mass is Saturday, December 24, 2:00pm.

Participants and their parents will be required to attend the one and only dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 17, 9:00am–12:00noon.

In order to successfully create this special liturgy, we are in need of parent volunteers. Registration is required no later than December 6. Visit www.paxchristi.com/childrenschristimasmass for online registration or contact Joan Howe-Pullis, 952-405-7247. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.

BOW: BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

We are excited to announce a new way to participate in worship at Pax Christi. Every Monday we will post the readings for the following weekend's Mass in *Breaking Open the Word*, our brand-new Facebook group. We invite you to join this group and post your personal reflections on the readings. This will serve our community in getting more deeply connected with each other and with our presiders. All members of Pax Christi are invited to join this new way of sharing the uniqueness that the Word intersects with our everyday lives.

www.facebook.com/groups/breakingopentheword

PARISHIONER NEWS

OCTOBER BAPTISMS

Maxwell Robert Duncan	10/1/2016
Franklin Walter Mewes	10/1/2016
Elizabeth Ruth Wold	10/1/2016
Ryker Dale Paun	10/2/2016
Nathaniel Steven Sandoval	10/2/2016
Rose Victorine Turner	10/8/2016
Lily Allyson Cohen	10/9/2016
Hudson Miller Gordinier	10/9/2016
Cade Terrence Ahmann	10/16/2016
Blair Ava Guither	10/16/2016
Laurel Kay Berglund	10/23/2016
Charlotte Elena Nerpel	10/23/2016
Hugo Lachlan Bierer	10/29/2016
Desmond Charles Dylan Steichen	10/30/2016

OCTOBER WEDDINGS

Quynh Dinh & Simon Pham	10/1/2016
Nicole Pratten & Jeffrey Dietz	10/7/2016
Erica Milton & Mark Lenczewski	10/8/2016
Riley Martodam & John Shonka	10/8/2016
Amanda Schneider & Kenneth Valdez	10/15/2016
Jennifer Debol & John Fick	10/21/2016
Rebecca Fishbune & John Knutson	10/22/2016

OCTOBER FUNERALS

Kathleen A. Clausen	10/2/2016
Charles P. Hendricks	10/3/2016
Joe Sutila	10/31/2016

OCTOBER NEW MEMBERS

Marion Clark

Jeremy and Torrey Cramer-Elsner
Tony and Janet Dvorak
David and Cecelia Morris
Sonplyee Oulahi and Rachel Hney
Austin Reischl and Nicole Zillhart
Duncan and Pat Sinclair
Arthur and Annabelle Thelemann
Roger and Teri Zeug



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2016

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday: ls 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-26 Tuesday: ls 40:1-11/Ps 96/Mt 18:12-14 Wednesday: ls 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 2016

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11 Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13/

Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34/Mt 21:28-32 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30/Lk 7:24-30 Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67/Jn 5:33-36 Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2016

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24 Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: ls 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56 Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89/Lk 1:67-79

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2016

Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: ls 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21/Ps 128/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96/Jn 1:1-18

DECEMBER

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Friday, December 2, Beginning with Mass at 8:30am

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

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AND BAKE SALE

Saturday, December 3, 9:00am-3:00pm

Details on back cover.

PARISHIONER ART EXHIBIT

EXHIBIT IS ON DISPLAY December 4-18 IN THE Pacem IN TERRIS GALLERY OPENING RECEPTION, SUNDAY, December 4, 10:00am-1:00pm

Pax Christi artists will share their work at the Parishioner Art Exhibit. Join us for the opening reception and enjoy refreshments, view the art, and talk with the featured artists. The exhibit is hosted by the Pax Christi Art Committee.

FINDING MEANING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Labyrinth Walk, Monday, December 5, 6:30-8:30pm RSVP

The holiday season will soon be in full force. The push is on to buy presents, attend parties and present a happy face to the world. You're not alone in trying to find the true spirit of love and peace in this season of commercialism. Come join some kindred spirits for heart-filled conversation, exploration, and labyrinth walking. Email Carrie Chevalier Mosher at Carrie@Indigoorbis.com to register.

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.paxchrisi.com/eventregistration. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.

BOOMERS AND BEYOND HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 10, 11:30-2:30am RSVP

Silent night, holy night, Jesus' birthday is near. Hark the herald angels sing; soon the New Year will ring in. The holidays are upon us, and Boomers and Beyond is 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 and all the fixings will be served. Come, all you revelers, for fun and fellowship. The fun will start with registration at 11:30am with lunch at noon. Our entertainment will begin at 1:00pm. 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. Members of Boomers and Beyond can enjoy this event for free, as part of your yearly membership, but you must register so we can plan accordingly. Non-Boomer members are encouraged to attend for a fee of \$15.00 per person, with reservation and payment in advance. Registration: Both Boomers and Beyond members and non-members must register for this event, either online at www.paxchristi.com/ eventregistration or by calling the RSVP line at 952-405-7251 by December 3.

CELEBRATION FOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Following Masses December 10/11

Members of the Worship Council and Pax Christi's hospitality ministry are planning a Mexican/Latino-themed celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast day is December 12. All are welcome! Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared four times to St. Juan Diego, an illiterate, poor, indigenous Mexican on Tepeyac Hill above Mexico City in December, 1531. Her image miraculously appeared on St. Juan Diego's tilma/cloak. After 485 years, this very image is framed and still hangs in Our Lady of Guadalupe's



Basilica in Mexico City. In 1945, Pope Pius XII declared her Queen of Mexico and Empress/Patroness of the Americas. In 2016, St. Juan Diego was named a saint by Pope Francis. Millions from all over the Americas pay tribute to her — especially around the time of her feast day in December.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT LOCAL CARE CENTERS

Sunday, December 11, 2:00-4:00pm, Dorothy Day Social Hall RSVP

Additional details on page 9.

CAREGIVER SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH: December 15, 1:00-2:30pm

Recent studies report that nearly 44 million adults in the US are providing personal assistance for family members with disabilities or other care needs. That's more than one out of every six adults. As these numbers increase, hundreds of websites and services have been created to assist with the mental, physical, and emotional demands of the caregiver. Pax Christi's Caregiver Spiritual Support Group aims to support caregivers on the spiritual dimensions of this journey by offering a prayerful and supportive faith-based time to gather together. This group meets on the third Thursday of every month from 1:00-2:30pm in room 221. Topics such as spiritual pain, forgiveness, and hope will be explored through video presentations and small group sharing. The group is open to anyone in the role of a caregiver. You may attend monthly or as needed. Please contact Jean Thoresen, Director of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7211, if you have any questions.

MAKE PLANS NOW

MINNESOTA MARDI GRAS

Save the date for the shared ministry appreciation event!
Saturday, January 21, 6:00–8:30pm

We'll chase away the winter blues and celebrate all of our shared ministers with a Minnesota Mardi Gras! We'll start with Mass at 5:00pm, then enjoy appetizers, beverages, and lots of fun as we celebrate all the ways members of Pax Christi share their gifts serving others as shared ministers, here at Pax Christi and within the greater community.



STOCK: If you are interested in donating stock to Pax Christi Catholic Community before December 31, 2016, 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 website and clicking on the 'make a donation' image button 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.



ANNUAL CANA DINNER – EARLY LOVE BIRD RATE

Saturday, February 25, 6:00pm, \$65 per couple through January 15

Please join us for a special evening to celebrate love and "All That Jazz." We're honoring all couples, of all ages, at the annual CANA Dinner, on Saturday, February 25. The evening begins at 6:00pm with a hosted wine reception, followed by a Fabulously Catered candle-light dinner. After dinner, everyone will enjoy time to mingle over coffee, wine, and dessert while listening and dancing to live jazz selections from the J&S Quartet. A couples photo-op will be offered during the evening, so be sure to dress up! Tickets are available at an early lovebird price of \$65.00 per couple through January 15, and \$75.00 through February 20. The ticket price includes a hosted wine reception, dinner, dessert, live jazz, and the couple's photo. Loving childcare may be arranged by contacting the Nursery for reservations. So as the song goes, "Slick your hair and wear your buckle shoes, and all that Jazz" and say "We do!" to the 2017 Cana Dinner. Commit soon, this popular event sells out. Consider what a wonderful Christmas gift a pair of Cana Dinner tickets would make for that special couple in your life. Register online today!

DECEMBER

See pages 18-19 for details or visit us online at www.paxchristi.com.

or visit as officine at www.paxcrifisti.com.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL WELLNESS GROUP	2 FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL	HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AND BAKE SALE
PARISHIONER ART EXHIBIT OPENS FAITH FORMATION	5 LABYRINTH WALK	6	7 FAITH FORMATION	HOLY DAY: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	9	10 BOOMERS HOLIDAY EVENT OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION CHRISTMAS CAROLING FAITH FORMATION	12	13	14 FAITH FORMATION	15 CAREGIVER SUPPORT GRP.	16	17 MATION RETREAT
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE



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