

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, JUNE 10TH

*6:30 a.m. Dorothy Miller
*8:00 a.m. Int. Dean Weissman & Family

TUESDAY, JUNE 11TH

*8:00 a.m. Int. of Lucille Forbrich

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH

*8:00 a.m. Charles Nash

THURSDAY, JUNE 13TH

*8:00 a.m. William C. Edsall

FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH

8:00 a.m. Wayne & Geraldine Thompson (50th anniv.)

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH

8:00 a.m. John F. Vorndran
5:00 p.m. Janice Brown-Martin

SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH

7:15 a.m. David Cox
9:00 a.m. Ernie Farmer
11:00 a.m. John Holubes
6:00 p.m. For The Parish (LifeTeen Mass)



Congratulations to Paul and Magdalen Roth on the celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary. May they be blessed with good health and happiness.

SERVERS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 15

8:00 a.m. Scott Nill, Brooke Picillo
5:00 p.m. Sam Vanderbosch, Sarah Vanderbosch
Mike Widner, Patrick Dahm

Sunday, June 16

7:15 a.m. Justin Shutt, Marissa Freson
Zach Meyer, Brian Key
9:00 a.m. Jenna Voirol, Ashley Gross
Dylan Friesner, Reid Leazier
11:00 a.m. Molly Tomlinson, Logan Houlihan
Jason Reinhart, Erin Hennessey

NURSERY - June 16

9:00 a.m. Krohn

WEDDING BANNERS

- III Brian Shultz and Joann Kalb
- II John Loesch and Nicole Fischer
- II Jack Seldon Miller and Vivian Suelzer
- I Matthew Lindley and Rachel Brockhoff

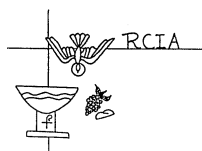


WEDDING POLICY

Weddings in the parish should be scheduled at least six months in advance of the wedding day. This will allow us to do the necessary preparation as required by the diocese. Also, active membership in the parish is required for at least six months prior to setting a date for the wedding.

TRAINING SESSIONS FOR FAITH BASED INITIATIVE

The training is completed in one session. When taking a client you will be coupled with a social worker who will manage the case. All training sessions will be at Lutheran Social Services located at 3326 S. Calhoun across from South Side High School. The sessions are from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and food will be supplied. Training sessions will be held July 2, August 5, and September 10.



RCIA

Do you know someone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, its teachings and traditions? The RCIA is an ongoing process. Call the church office for more information.

ATTENTION: ALL ORGANIZATION HEADS

Please note that the date for the annual Calendar Scheduling Meeting is Thursday, June 13th, at 6:30 p.m. in the East Meeting Room.



FROM THE PASTOR:

As we mark the first anniversary of the dedication of our new church, I want to thank you for your wonderful support. This beautiful building, where we regularly gather to worship the Lord, is a reflection of the deep faith of the members of this parish community. I enjoy celebrating Mass in this sacred space and am delighted as it grows in beauty with the addition of the stained glass windows. Not only is the interior of the church strikingly attractive, but the exterior as well. When I walk from the rectory to the church, I am always impressed by the beauty of the structure. It is, indeed, a church we can all be proud of. May future generations enjoy the church as much as we enjoy it.

Fr. John



MEN'S TEAM 32 CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, 2002

Are you looking for a way to revitalize your faith and make new friends? Sign up now for the next Men's Christ Renews His Parish Weekend on September 7 & 8, 2002. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship. Contact Chuck Hollis at 471-9442.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKEND SIGN UP

Listen to your heart, and take advantage of this opportunity to renew or enhance your relationship with God by attending a Christ Renews His Parish weekend. The women's weekend is September 21 and 22. Christ could be calling you for a chance to enrich your spiritual life with fellowship, scripture and prayer. Please call Carol Tarbell at 489-9649 to sign up.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY MESSAGE TO ALL PARISHIONERS

Many members of St. Vincent's have been affected by the recent recession experienced in our economy. Some by loss of long-held jobs, others through extended layoffs, and many through restructuring or downsizing in local companies that have in the past provided long term employment and job security for many of our families.

Other parishioners may be experiencing the financial burdens caused by unexpected medical expenses of hospitalization, home nursing care, or the high cost of prescriptions not covered by insurance plans.

Whatever the causes may be, if you have any current needs that you are unable to take care of or manage in the way you have been able to do in the past, please be aware that your St. Vincent de Paul Conference, your fellow parishioners, are here for you in your time of need. We may not have all the answers, or immediate solutions to all of your problems, but we hope to be able to ease your burden in some way, and we would welcome the privilege to try. Please call us at 489-3537 so we may be of service in your time of need.

St. Vincent's St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference

NEWCOMERS REGISTRATION

Parish representatives will be in Church Conference Room TODAY, June 9th, after the 9 a.m. Mass to welcome and register new members to St. Vincent's.

Meetings of the Week

MEN'S CLUB – Monday, June 10th, at 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall
SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST – Tuesday, June 11th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Reservation Chapel
MINISTRY FAIRE COMMITTEE – Tuesday, June 11th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Conference Room
ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT – Wednesday, June 12th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Reservation Chapel
MARKET DAY – Thursday, June 13th, at 5:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall
ANNUAL SCHEDULING MEETING – Thursday, June 13th, at 6:30 p.m. in the East Meeting Room
BAPTISMAL PREPARATIONAL I – Thursday, June 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Conference Room
DIVORCED/SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP – Thursday, June 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center

HARVEST HOUSE PICNIC

St. Vincent Harvest House will have a picnic on Monday, June 24, 2002, at the Veterans Memorial Shrine, 2122 O'Day Road. We will meet at the Spiritual Center at 11 a.m. and carpool. Let us know if you decide to go on your own so we will not wait for you.

Please bring your place settings and a favorite dish to share. Meat and beverages will be provided. Call 482-2085 or 483-7252 for information and reservations.

Dues are \$5 per year. We welcome new members!!

DIVORCED/SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of our Divorced/Separated Support Group will be Thursday, June 13, at 7:00 in the Spiritual Center. Pat Sager, a school social worker, will speak with the group on the effects of divorce on children. For more information, call the church office at 489-3537.

OPENINGS IN DIVORCED/SEPARATED WOMEN'S SOC

The Small Christian Community for Divorced/Separated women has openings for new members. Come join us for spiritual growth and fellowship. If you have questions, please call Mary Osborn at 497-7435.

INITIAL SESSION FOR NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

This initial session is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2002, at St. Jude's Parish, Fort Wayne, from 7 – 9 p.m. This class is conducted by the diocesan Office of Family Life and is open to engaged and married couples. The fee for the session is \$25.00. Registration is required. To register, call (574) 234-0687.

GIFT BEARING MINISTRY

We would like all parishioners to have the opportunity to carry the gifts of bread and wine to the altar during the part of the Mass called the "Presentation of the Gifts." Before Mass, just pick up the "Last Supper" plaque from the gift table located in front of the Baptismal Font and take it to your pew. This is a great way to mark a special date such as an anniversary or birthday. As representatives of the church community, we ask that appropriate attire be worn. Hint: Early arrival could assure your family's or group's turn at this ministry and also a pew in the center aisle.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Attendance at two Baptismal Preparation Sessions is required before your child is baptized. They are Session I and Session II. You may attend Session II before Session I, if necessary. Each session will begin at 7:00 p.m. It is recommended that you attend before the birth of your child so that there will be no delay in setting a date for the baptism once the baby is born. Godparents, too, are welcome. Please call the church office to register for your sessions.

Session I	Session II
June 13- Church Conference Room	June 20- East Meeting Room
June 27- East Meeting Room	
NO SESSIONS IN JULY	

ST. VINCENT EMPLOYERS-UNEMPLOYED LINK

Realizing that many people in our parish and area have lost their jobs and are looking, we want to help. We are asking you as owners and managers of businesses in the area to – Send by TUESDAY MORNING, IN WRITING OR E-MAIL (stvincenchurch@hotmail.com)

1. An open position you are aware of
2. The name of the company and address
3. The contact person and how to reach him or her

God is in every part of our journey!

HOSPITAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR

Second shift opening in our product management area. Oversee employees, respond to hospital inquiries, and maintain the blood products inventory. Requires a Bachelor's degree in science, MT(ASCP) preferred, 3 years of supervisory experience, with blood banking and inventory control experience a plus. Competitive salary with excellent benefits. Join our life saving team and make a difference! Send resume with cover letter and salary requirements to: If interested, contact Amy Reihing, American Red Cross

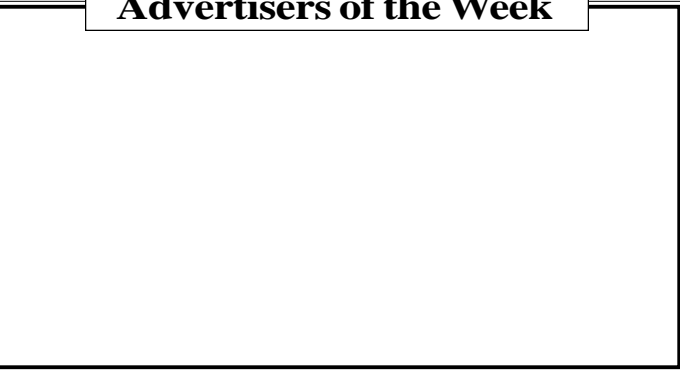
Indiana-Ohio Blood Services
 1212 East California Road 46825
 (260) 480-8294, FAX (260) 480-8201,
 or reihinga@usa.redcross.org

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL POSITION

The Catholic Schools Office in Fort Wayne needs an executive secretary who is exceptionally organized with excellent grammar, accounting abilities, and computer literate with good typing skills.

Contact Joan Benet at (260) 422-4611.

Advertisers of the Week



Please patronize the companies that support our bulletin.

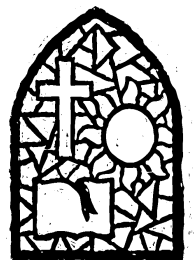
STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

If you are interested in donating one of the eighteen lower windows in the ambulatory of the nave of the church, the cost is \$7,000. These attractive stained glass windows enhance the beauty of the church, and it will be wonderful to have them all in place. We are establishing a stained glass window fund for smaller donations.

Also, we are now finalizing the design of the stained

glass windows in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel. There will be a total of seven lower windows in stained glass with each depicting an angel at a cost of \$8,900 per window.

Eventually we will be placing stained glass in the upper windows of the nave; this is necessary to reduce glare. The windows in the great dome will not be done in stained glass but will remain as they are.



MEN WANTED

We want to issue an invitation to all eligible men of the parish to join the Knights of Columbus – St. Vincent's Council. The Knights is a service organization of Catholic men which is involved in both our church and our community by helping the less fortunate, supporting our youth programs, our seminarians, and the Right to Life effort. Knights work as volunteers when needed at St. Vincent's and on projects within our community. In addition, we relax and enjoy each other and ourselves at dances, hayrides, dinner theater and other such social events.

You can be as active in the Knights of Columbus as your time allows. You might choose to be an officer in our organization or limit your participation to flipping an occasional pancake at one of our Sunday parish breakfasts.

If you want to join us or want more information first, please call Ray Ohlman, membership director, at 637-5377. We look forward to welcoming you to our council.

LIFE TEEN REFLECTION

In the Gospel today, Jesus calls Matthew with the simple words, "Follow me." Last Sunday for the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ we had a procession with the Blessed Sacrament after the Life Teen Mass. I was at the back of the procession at first and took it all in. There were many high school teens, college teens, and people of all ages. One family had their children (I think all 5) and the mom and dad each carried little ones. What an AWESOME sight! We all took up with our various troubles, at various stages of our faith journey, and just followed Jesus. We went to the Life House and prayed for the youth and those who minister to them. We went to the cemetery and prayed for all the deceased. We went to the school and prayed for all of us to learn more about our faith. We are the "sick" who need His healing. In the first reading, the prophet Hosea asks for God's judgment to "shine forth like the light of day." Do we think of judgment as radiant thing? If we follow Him in all we do like we followed Him around the church grounds, we will.

Teens, if you were not able to participate in last week's procession, I urge you to go to the Eucharistic chapel and spend time with Jesus. When we spend time in His Holy presence, He fills us with a special grace to love God more fully, one another more deeply and to resist temptation more firmly. Cindy

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

- June 9 World Youth Day Raffle Drawing after Life Teen Mass
Teens stick around for pep talk
- June 12 Pizza Hut night, 5 – 8 p.m.
Ministry Hour, 7:15 p.m.
- June 13 Pray at abortion clinic
- June 16 Summer Spectacular

LIFE TEEN SUMMER SPECTACULAR

Help us officially "Welcome New Freshmen". Join us Sunday, June 16th, for the Life Teen Mass and a Life Night afterward. All high school teens, from ALL schools, freshmen through seniors, come and bring your friends!



THERE WILL NOT BE A JR. HIGH LIFE MEETING ON JUNE 10. DETAILS ABOUT OUR NEXT EVENT TO COME LATER IN THE SUMMER.

PARENTS OF JR. HIGH KIDS

Our 7th and 8th graders NEED you if we are to have a Jr. High ministry. If you have a 7th or 8th grader (at any school) next year, please pray to see if God is calling you to serve on the Jr. High Life Core Team. Contact Cindy Black Cblack@SaintV.org or 637-7445 for more information.

Contact Cindy Black Cblack@SaintV.org or 637-7445 for more information.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2002 COULD BE FOR YOU!

If you are part of the 17th World Youth Day Pilgrimage from our diocese, don't miss the Diocesan WYD Send-Off "Pilgrimage of Prayer" June 23 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. with Bishop John D'Arcy at Camp Mack, Milford, IN. All those participating, their families and friends are invited to come together for an afternoon of prayer, support and celebration, concluding with Mass and a blessing. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Questions? Contact the Office of Youth Ministry and Spiritual Formation at (260) 422-4611 or (574) 257-4294, ext. 205, or the Office of Campus/Young Adult Ministry at (260) 483-3661.

Present this ad on Wednesday, June 12 or June 19, 2002 between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and for every buffet purchased, the PINE VALLEY PIZZA HUT will donate \$1.00 per adult and \$.50 per child buffet toward the Teen Life trip to Toronto, Canada for World Youth Day.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND

We are reinstating the Capital Improvement envelope in the monthly packet of the Sunday collection envelopes. We find this necessary because we need to begin to accumulate funds to help us pay for the following: a new school roof, Spiritual Center and rectory roof, organ repair and school boiler replacement. Some parishioners, having completed their building campaign pledge, will see this as an opportunity to continue giving in support of needed improvements for the maintenance and upkeep of the parish plant.

YOU CAN SET PRISONERS FREE

Men needed to build ramps for wheelchair-bound people. We want to form a pool of willing men to call as we have requests. Your time and energy are all that you need to give. Work done on location Saturdays only. If God is calling you to this ministry, please call Jody at 637-8125 or Tom Braun at 489-3054.



FRANCISCAN CENTER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The Franciscan Center needs your help. Our supply levels have dropped dramatically, and we are requesting your help. We are in need of the following items:

- Sandwich sacks
- Snack size bags
- Gallon Size storage bags
- Brown paper grocery bags
- Cash Donations

You may drop these off at the center: 4643 Gaywood Drive on Mon-Thurs 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Thank you for your support and love of the needy of our great community.

****NOTE: ANY OF THESE ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

GARAGE SALE HELPS FORT WAYNE

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

The Fort Wayne Christ Child Society will sponsor its annual Garage Sale on Friday, June 14, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Saturday, June 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at Queen of Angels Church Basement, 1500 West State Blvd. Funds from this sale will be used to help the poor children in our area. All items for sale have been donated solely by members of the Christ Child Society. We regret that donations from outside sources cannot be accepted. (No early sales)



RUMMAGE SALE

On June 14 and 15, St. Peter's Church at 500 E. DeWald Street, will hold a rummage sale in the School basement. On Friday, June 14th, the hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on June 15th, the hours are from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. for the Bag Sale. Parking will be available in St. Peter's church lot on Warsaw Street. Everyone is requested to use the St. Martin's Street entrance to the school. Refreshments will be available. Come early for the best bargains.

SOUP IT UP AT ST. ANDREW'S

St. Andrew's Soup Kitchen is in need of volunteers to work on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 or 1:30 p.m. If you can help us out, please call the St. Andrew's church office at 422-0380. If you get the answering machine, please leave your name and number so you can be called back.

Also, they are in need of brown paper bags. Please also call their church office at 422-0380 to arrange for a drop off time.

DRIVE FOR THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross needs volunteers for driving the donor room and blood mobiles. Call Pam Schroeder at 480-8218.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?

Have you heard the news? A new hospital has opened in your neighborhood! It is Parkview North Hospital and we are happy to be serving the north side of town. We are looking for volunteers of all ages to serve the community. There are many opportunities available. For those of you who are interested, please contact Ann Atchley, Parkview North Volunteer Coordinator at 672-4542.

BABY, OH BABY!! SAVE THOSE LABELS!

If you have a baby eating Heinz baby food, please save your labels. Each label is worth a 6-cent donation to Riley's Children Hospital in Indianapolis. A small box is between the west exit doors of the Gathering Space. Any questions, please contact Kellie Stanley 637-6041.

SAILING AWAY...

Please remember to save your personal size items from hotels and ships for our Bags of Blessings Project. Last year we delivered over 300 bags to our community. Call Terri Ferro 637-1400 or Kellie Stanley 637-6041 for pick-up or drop off information.

ITALY PILGRIMAGE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

There are still reservations available to join Fr. Chris Young on a pilgrimage to Italy, September 16-26, 2002. Please join us for an informational meeting to discover all the wonderful highlights of this exciting trip. This meeting is Sunday, June 9, at 6:15 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo's Hession Parish Center. So please bring your questions and your checkbook to reserve a place before time runs out. To receive a free brochure, call Fr. Chris at 482-2186.

GERMAN FEST MASS

On June 9, 2002, St. Peter's will host the 9:30 a.m. German Mass in celebration of Germanfest. Father Charles Herman will officiate the Mass in German. Thomas Remenschneider will direct the Fort Wayne Maennerchor and Damenchor in the singing of German hymns. Immediately following Mass, bratwurst, potato salad and dessert will be served on the side lawn of St. Peter's. All are invited to join in celebrating our German heritage.

(5/02 PG 5 LN 2 COL 1)

KOFC FISH FRY

The Knights of Columbus, Council 451, 601 Reed Road, Fort Wayne, is sponsoring their monthly ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH FRY on Friday, June 7th, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 if under 12. Fish, cole slaw, scalloped potatoes and drink. All are welcome.

7TH ANNUAL SAINTS OPEN GOLF OUTING

The Bishop Dwenger Alumni Association is sponsoring the 7th Annual Saints Open Golf Outing on Tuesday, June 11, 2002. The 4-person Florida scramble will be held at the Pine Valley Country Club. Cost is \$125 per person or \$500 per team. This includes cart, green fees, lunch, dinner, and refreshments. Proceeds will benefit the chemistry lab renovation. Call Dennis Fech at 496-4706 for more information or visit www.bishopdwenger.com and go to the alumni link.

AN EVENING WITH MATTHEW KELLY

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will host "An Evening With Matthew Kelly" on Thursday, June 13, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Matthew is an amazing young man with a powerful message to all Christians. Adults and teens are encouraged to attend. Admission is free.

(CARTOON 2/01 PG 5 LN 4 COL 1)

PAGE 5 COL 2

6/2/01 DEAR PADRE "Is the Consecration the Most Important Part of the Mass?"



Why didn't they recognize Jesus?

Dear Padre,

After Jesus' Resurrection, he appears many times to his disciples. They never seem to recognize him. Why is that? Had Jesus changed that much?

Scripture Sleuth

Dear Scripture Sleuth,

It is somewhat puzzling that the disciples kept failing to recognize Jesus after the Resurrection. You have Mary in the garden (Jn 20:1-18), the disciples on the lake (Jn 21:1-14), the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35), the apostles in the upper room (Lk 24:36-43), and the doubting Thomas (Jn 20:24-29). They all needed to be convinced that it was actually Jesus standing there with them.

It was and is true that Jesus was radically transformed by his Resurrection. This was different from Lazarus' situation. Lazarus was raised from the dead and returned to his sisters and his regular earthly existence. Lazarus had to face death again! Jesus rose from death to glory. He would never have to face death again. His body was beyond physical corruption.

Saint Paul tries to explain this mystery to the Corinthians by comparing it to a seed that is sown. We sow seeds that are perishable, but God sows seeds that are imperishable. God's seeds are raised into a spiritual body (1 Cor 15:42-44). It is obvious from the gospel appearance accounts that the glorified body must look a bit different from our mortal bodies. The caterpillar and butterfly are good symbols that help us look at the difference between a mortal body and a glorified body. If all you knew was the caterpillar, you certainly wouldn't recognize it in the magnificent and fully colored butterfly.

The gospel also tells us that the disciples were looking in all the wrong places for Jesus. Luke 24:5 tells us that the disciples were looking for Jesus "among the dead." They didn't expect him to be among the living or glorified. Their blindness in not recognizing Jesus might have come partially from their own wrong expectations. As people of baptism, we have passed through death into new life with Jesus. We look for the Lord now among the living!

The Padre

Rev. Paul J. Coury, C.Ss.R.



Who or what is the Holy Spirit?

Dear Padre,

I am invited to my nephew's confirmation. I bought him a religious card and put some money in it. I began to wonder about the confirmation ceremony, and realized that I knew very little about the Holy Spirit. Who or what is the Holy Spirit?

The Gift-Giver

Dear Gift-Giver,

Every Sunday at Mass, when we pray the Creed, we say: "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son." The third person of the Trinity is called the Holy Spirit.

The name "spirit" is a translation of the Hebrew word, "ruach," which means breath, air, or wind. When God created the world, God filled it with his own breath or spirit. God also breathed life in Adam, the first man (Gen 2:7).

The Holy Spirit is also called the "Paraclete." This is a Greek word meaning "one called in," an advocate, or one who pleads. The Holy Spirit is the one who strengthens us when we stand against evil, injustice, or unchristian attitudes. The Church has identified and recognized the Holy Spirit through symbols such as the water poured on our heads during baptism, the oil we are anointed with at confirmation, the fire which appeared over the heads of the apostles at Pentecost, and the dove which settled on Jesus at his baptism.

The Holy Spirit is also the giver of gifts. There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. There is wisdom, to recognize the things of God; understanding, to hear others with our heart; counsel, to advise others with wisdom; fortitude, to stand firm in the cause of virtue and truth; knowledge, to discern the difference between good and evil; piety, to faithfully practice our religion; and fear of the Lord, which inspires us with a respect for God.

In the spirit of Pentecost, let us renew our own commitment to live the gifts of the Spirit which we received at our confirmation.

The Padre
Rev. Paul J. Coury, C.Ss.R

GOOD NEWS

Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Hans Christoffersen

We're all familiar with the long-running TV program *Unsolved Mysteries*, hosted by Robert Stack in his long trench coat. The mysteries he brings before us are usually about murders and/or disappearances, and we're asked to look out for certain persons or clues that might lead to solving the mystery, a word we mostly use in connection with something secret, hidden, or unexplainable.

In today's reading from the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes about "the mystery of Christ." Obviously, he uses "mystery" in quite a different way than just mentioned. Elsewhere, he describes that, to him, "the mystery of Christ" refers to the whole of God's plan of salvation, which, once hidden for the ages, was now revealed to human beings in the person of Jesus Christ. The Christian mystery is that the incomprehensible has come close to us in our history. Not only that, an aspect that we may not find very unusual - but which was nothing short of shocking to Paul and his Jewish contemporaries - was that "the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and shares in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

This is not just theology - you and I live in this mystery! As members of the Church, we are part of a community incorporated into the history of salvation. Likewise, today's feast is not just a dramatic story of the adventures of three astrologers; it has to do with us, our story, our worship here this morning as well as in all of our lives. If the manifestation of Christ that Paul and Matthew talk about is to get hold of us, we can no longer look at others as strangers whom we need to be suspicious of or threatened by.

As believers, we live in mystery, but not an unsolved one, nor a nostalgic one. Given our human limitations, we do not comprehend it, but we experience awe and reverence, and we "see" in momentary glances that we live on the verge of the Church to come, whose shape is seen only darkly through a glass that is not always clear. This saving work of Christ is glimpsed in the sacraments we celebrate, in the healing words we hear or share with another, in the hopeful longing that keeps us reaching out for what is beyond us, yet still at the center of all our knowing and willing, and in trusting the future promised by God and belonging to God. God beckons us like a parent encourages a toddler to walk - teasingly receding, with hands outstretched, in order that the child may take yet another step before doubting what is going on and letting the force of gravity take over once again. In light of this beckoning, we might do well to consider ourselves spiritual beings on a human journey, rather than human beings on a spiritual journey.

How does the mystery manifest itself in your life?

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BISHOP D'ARCY'S LETTER

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SCOUT'S EASTER EGG HUNT

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ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

GOOD NEWS

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3,5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

Hans Christoffersen

Do you ever think back to your time in grade school? As I get older, it seems that incidents and events from that time pop up in my mind more and more often. One of these is the countless times I'd raise my hand, "I know! I know!" only to discover I was totally wrong. Another memory sometimes follows this one, and that was when I'd be asked something and- without even realizing it - be right on.

This came to mind when reading today's gospel, where John the Baptist, whom Luke tells us was the cousin of Jesus, repeatedly says about Jesus, "I myself did not know him." That started me thinking of how we think we know something while, at other times, we actually know what we don't think we know.

There are different ways of knowing. Much of our knowledge about life and the world comes to us through our senses of sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. In this we are no different than the animals around us. On another level, we have intellectual knowledge which enables us to know on a level deeper than the most obvious, for example, the principles of mathematics, logic, history, etc. Beyond this, there is spiritual knowledge - a knowledge that we can't achieve on our own, since it is God's gift. This gift is what enables us to truly know ourselves. Saint Augustine, in his *Soliloquia*, wrote about this, "I desire to know God and the soul. Nothing besides? Nothing whatsoever." To do so, he went from the world of the senses to the things that are within, whereby he was aided toward the things that are above. Self-knowledge is an important element in knowing God.

Besides being steeped in the Jewish Scriptures, to be a prophet, John the Baptist had to know himself well. Yet he knew not the image of the Messiah Jesus conveyed. He had known Jesus from earlier in life. Beyond being cousins, many scholars indicate that Jesus might have followed John for a while. Yet, in spite of all this, it wasn't until John saw - perhaps more with spiritual knowledge than sensory knowledge - the Spirit descend from heaven and rest upon Jesus, that he discovered him whom he hadn't known: "I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

This testimony will impact you and me only if we let God's gift of knowledge act in us. "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor 12:3). It is the Spirit who enables us to know who Jesus is, and, in this, come to know ourselves.