



The Season of Advent

at Pax Christi Catholic Community

952-941-3150 • www.paxchristi.com • The First Sunday of Advent • November 27, 2011

BEFORE I FORGET...

—Fr. Bill Murtaugh

Here dies another day during which I have had eyes, hands and the great world around me, and tomorrow begins another. Why am I allowed two?

—G. K. Chesterton

You have given so much to me...Give me one thing more...a grateful heart.

—George Herbert

Spirituality means waking up. Most people, even though they don't know it, are asleep. They're born asleep. They live asleep. They marry in their sleep, they breed children in their sleep. They die in their sleep without ever waking up. They never understand the loveliness and the beauty of this thing we call human existence.

—Charles De Bois

Every day is a good day. What makes a good day? Is it appreciation, gratitude, insight, learning, leisure.... living in the present moment? When we learn to be happy with whatever life brings us, then we have attained the gift of serenity, and we can be ourselves, our true selves. We discover that our time on earth is more than "making a living," it's about "making a life."

Today's Gospel for the first Sunday of Advent contains Jesus' simple warning: "Be watchful! Be alert!" (Mark 13:33); we are called to be alert and watchful as the Lord comes to us in the present moment of each day and at the end of time, including our death. Reading obituaries in the daily newspaper is quite sobering: ages 21, 39, 54, 86, 90, 41, 15, 66, and 32. The Lord gets my attention as I read about a sudden, unexpected death, a death after years of suffering, and even a death after a long life. If God wants me to live my life for God, I need to believe and hope that this God is so much more attentive to me and everyone else on this earthly pilgrimage. Faith is a gift. It is also a struggle. Sometimes the more we see in life, the more struggle it is. We need to know and believe that we're not just a laundry list of names that scrolls down a screen while the Creator moves on to something more interesting, more urgent. I know this may sound arrogant and uppity, but I need to believe in a God who is worthy of my watchfulness.

Isaiah the prophet reminds us in today's first scripture passage that God is worthy of our watchfulness. "O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." Those few poetic lines are quite reassuring as we are watchful, alert, and living our lives as believers in the God of Jesus.

The world will always follow the money. And fame and fortune will always be the golden rings to reach for. But the greatest truth worth celebrating is not that God is coming. Rather, it's that our God never left us in the first place. That's a God who deserves our full attention and then some. If we believe this, we will live our lives connected and plugged into God.

Continued on page 2

Hope



**Mission Statement:**

Pax Christi Catholic Community, in company with God, and guided by the Spirit of Vatican II, welcomes all as leaders in faith for service to the world.

Vision Statement:

Pax Christi Catholic Community will be a community guided by a cooperative spirit that supports growth in faith and calls for each member to engage in active and generous service to each other, our community, and the greater world.

Values:

God-Centered, Justice, Inclusive, Hospitality, Lifelong Learning, and Stewardship

Steve Jobs, the late founder of Apple, was one of the driving forces and first lights of the digital age. In 2005, just a year after learning that he had pancreatic cancer, Jobs gave the commencement address at Stanford University. He spoke honestly about facing death in the middle of his most productive years: "Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything—all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure—these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart."

Steve Jobs was interested in Eastern spirituality, Hinduism and Zen Buddhism, throughout his life. But in his commencement speech, Jobs reflects the words of Jesus, "Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it." Daily, we die to the false self and rise to our true self. The challenge of discipleship is to embrace the idea that our lives are gifts from God and to grasp the incredible idea that God has created us so that we may be illuminated in that love and that our lives become mirrors of that love for all.

The Church begins its new year on the first Sunday of Advent. As we begin this new liturgical year and come to the close of the calendar year 2011 in a month, ask yourself: what are my dreams as I live this amazing life as a human being/Christian?

In order to discover your dreams, expand your sense of wonder/awe. To wonder, to imagine, means that you don't take the world as it is. You don't relax in the usual certainties. You find time to be astonished, amazed, to be curious, and to call into question. As I watched the PBS documentary about Steve Jobs, this is exactly what he did in his life. What dreams he had. Think of all the people throughout history who dared to dream. Can you learn to see the world in a new way? It takes imagination to be constructive instead of critical.

In the Gospel of Matthew, 6: 25-33, Jesus says "Look at the birds...they do not sow or reap...they gather nothing into barns... yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than birds?" You are a human being, you are God's favorite creature. This teaching ends with powerful words: "Enough, then, of worrying about tomorrow. Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own." The gospel is reminding us that the life of the soul/spirit is far more important than your physical appearance. What is important and necessary is love, faith, and kindness. Let each day begin and end with God.

Back to your dreams. What do you live for? What is important for you? What are your values? What are you accomplishing? The story of your life will be your gift to God. St. Irenaeus who lived around 130-200 wrote that "the glory of God is the human being fully alive."

Don't be afraid to live your life. Be your own unique self. Enjoy the journey.



Holiday Boutique
at Pax Christi Catholic Community

Saturday, December 3, 9:00am–5:00pm

Bake sale too! See page 6 for complete details.



Advent

-The Blessed Hope

-Vicki Klima, Director of Lay Leadership

A New Liturgical Year has Begun

The Liturgical Year is an invitation to enter into the mystery of salvation and become more immersed in it as it touches us more deeply. It goes round and round year after year not like a simple circle but like a spiral burrowing into our hearts. We are not the same exact people we were a year ago. A year's worth of experiences has changed us. And so we approach the Advent/Christmas Season with an openness to grow in our relationship with God.

What is Advent?

Advent is comprised of the four weeks before Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. We remember the coming of Christ 2,000 years ago, and we anticipate the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the world. We do not know the day or the hour, and so we examine our lives and make ready our hearts to receive Him. We wait in joyful expectation for Christ to come. This year, the First Sunday of Advent is Nov 27.

What is the Incarnation Season?

We pray in the Nicene Creed that Jesus "was incarnate of the Virgin Mary," and became a flesh and blood human being. The word "incarnate" means the manifestation in bodily flesh of a supernatural being. Christians believe that God took on human flesh in Jesus Christ.

"Incarnation Season" is the title that Catholics use to describe the liturgical season that encompasses Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord.

What is the Feast of the Epiphany?

Epiphany is the day we celebrate Jesus as the light to all the nations as we join the magi in worshipping the long-awaited Messiah. The word "epiphany" comes from Greek and denotes an appearance or a manifestation. It was used in ancient Greece to talk about the appearance of a god previously hidden from human sight. Jesus is revealed to us as the manifestation of God.

What is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and How Can it Be Part of Christmas?

It may seem odd to us that Jesus ages 30 years in just a couple weeks. We need to remember that the Liturgical Year is not a reenactment of Jesus' life. The Christmas Season celebrates the birth of Christ and Christ's early manifestations, one of which is the beginning of His public ministry, His baptism in the Jordan River by John.

An Advent Prayer

Deliver us, Lord, we pray,
from every evil,

graciously grant peace in
our days,

that, by the help of
your mercy,

we may be always free
from sin

and safe from all
distress,

as we await the
blessed hope

and the coming of our
Savior, Jesus Christ.



Advent Reflection

Advent is about waiting.

Not all waiting is equal. Time sometimes passes slowly and sometimes more quickly. There is waiting **until** something happens and waiting **for** something to happen.

- I'm waiting until I'm old enough
- I'm waiting until I retire
- I'm waiting until I lose 20 pounds
- I'm waiting until I have the time

- I'm waiting for the light to turn green
- I'm waiting in line – at the bank,
at the grocery store, at the restaurant
- I'm on hold, waiting to talk to a real person
- I'm waiting for someone to solve all my problems for me

- I'm waiting for the baby to be born
- I'm waiting for a loved one to call
- I'm waiting for someone to say "I'm sorry"
- I'm waiting for a son or daughter to come home from war

- I'm waiting for a job
- I'm waiting for test results
- I'm waiting for a cure
- I'm waiting for someone to say, "I love you"

- I'm waiting for the food shelves to be filled
- I'm waiting for an end to terrorism
- I'm waiting for peace in my heart
- I'm waiting for peace in the world

Questions

1. What am I waiting for?
2. What am I waiting until – what have I put on hold while I'm waiting?
3. What do I do as I await the coming of Christ?

What can we do while we wait?

Our waiting for the Lord is not empty waiting. The Church gives us two things to do while we wait: 1) Be prepared and 2) Wait with blessed hope.

1) Being prepared for the coming of the Lord

It is not about all the externals we have to prepare; it is about being prepared on the inside - in our hearts. To welcome the presence of God into our hearts requires being able to get out of the frantic pace of the season and being able to center ourselves on God. We are being called to prayer – to silence before God – to self-examination. If my life ended tomorrow, what would I be leaving undone? What would I regret? What relationships would be forever unsettled? What have I been putting off that I should do now? Am I prepared for the coming of the Lord?

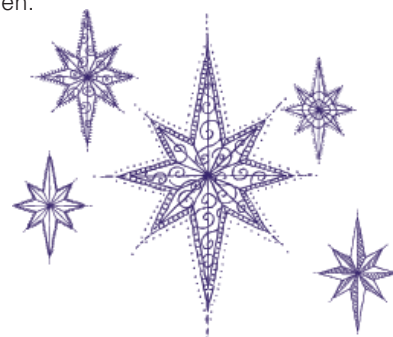
2) Waiting with blessed hope

We're waiting for Christ to come and for the coming of God's kingdom, a kingdom where peace and justice reign, a kingdom in which God will wipe away all our tears and where there is no more pain and suffering and death. We do not wait alone but with a community of believers that also know and wait for the reign of God which will be marked by justice, mercy, strength, and hope.

The Christmas story teaches us that God's ways are not our ways. God has taken us by surprise:

a young Jewish girl from the hill country, a wild preacher on the fringes of society, a group of sleepy and smelly shepherds, a confused and frightened carpenter, an infant born in a stable, a band of curious visitors from the East: the divine Word is NOT revealed where one might expect such a revelation among people of social standing, economic influence, or political power. Jesus is revealed to the lowly – so we can be people of hope.

And so we wait. Into our midst comes the promise of One who was born long ago in Bethlehem, who is born today in our hearts, and who will one day come again in fullness of glory. Advent reminds us to be prepared as we wait in blessed hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.





Weekly Reflections for the Incarnation Season

Advent Week 1

November 27, First Sunday of Advent, Mark 13:33-37

The readings on the First Sunday of Advent are traditionally about the end of the world. In Advent we are preparing not just for the coming of Christ at Christmas but for the second coming of Christ at the end of time. Jesus tells the disciples “to be on the watch,” because they do not know when He is coming.

Questions: In what ways am I called individually and as part of a community to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ both at Christmas and at the end of time? What concrete difference does my hope in Jesus Christ make in my life?

Advent Week 2

December 4, Second Sunday of Advent, Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist announces that we are to “prepare the way of the Lord.” He urges repentance and points to the One who is come, One who will baptize people “with the Holy Spirit.”

Questions: How do repentance and preparing the way of the Lord relate together in my life? What is the “way of the Lord” for me?

Advent Week 3

**December 11, Third Sunday of Advent,
1 Thes 5:16-24 and John 1:6-8,19-28**

St Paul urges us to “rejoice always.” He prays that God will make the Thessalonians “perfectly holy.” The Gospel is about John the Baptist who again points to One who is coming after him.

Questions: What causes me to rejoice? How can holiness and rejoicing go hand in hand in my life? What actions am I being called to do or not do in my personal life, my family life, and my life in the global community as I await the coming of the Messiah?

Advent Week 4

December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Luke 1:26-38

Today we hear the story of the angel Gabriel coming to Mary to tell her that she will be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah.

Questions: Consider Mary as a model of faith in the way she answered, “Yes,” to God’s call. What are the challenges or obstacles that get in the way of me answering yes to God? As I approach Christmas at the end of this week, how can I practice the art of spreading hope to a world that needs it desperately? Where in this community, my family, and my personal life is hope most urgently needed?

Christmas, December 25

How do the symbols of Christmas and the elements of the Christmas liturgy speak to my own faith right now? Which symbols or elements touch me the most? In what ways do I or can I use these symbols or liturgical elements for my own prayer and reflection?

Mary, Mother of God, January 1

What kind of New Year’s resolutions do I need to put into place in my faith life? What can Mary teach me about Jesus?

Epiphany, January 8

What does it mean to be enlightened? How does the seeking and searching of the Magi compare to my faith journey?

Baptism of the Lord, January 9

What does the Baptism of Jesus teach me about baptism? What does my own baptismal commitment mean to me?

December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

**Masses at 6:00pm,
Wednesday, December 7;
6:45am and 8:30am,
Thursday, December 8**

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have honored Mary, the Mother of Jesus. A feast celebrating her conception without original sin can be traced back before the year 700 in the monasteries of Syria. Many people think this feast celebrates the conception of Jesus in his mother Mary, perhaps because the date is close to Christmas. The conception of Jesus is celebrated on March 25, nine months before Christmas, on a feast called the Annunciation. The angel Gabriel “announces” to Mary that she is “full of grace” and will bear a son. December 8 we celebrate the conception of Mary; nine months later, September 8, we celebrate the birth of Mary.

SHARE THE JOY HOLIDAY GIVING

Pax Christi 12 Baskets Ministry invites you to "Share the Joy" this holiday season. As you give thanks and count your blessings, please consider how you might share with those in need. Visit the 12 Baskets Share the Joy tables in Dorothy Day **THIS weekend and next weekend** to select gift tags or pick up flyers with more information. Choose from the following recipient agencies:

- **St. Andrews/Pax Christi Holiday Store:** Restore some dignity to others by shopping for other people so they can shop for themselves at The Holiday Store for clients in the Phillips neighborhood. Pickup a scroll for gift ideas. Drop off at Pax Christi by December 4.

- **St. Stephen's Men's Shelter:** select gift tags from an assortment of items including flannel shirts, thermal underwear, socks, winter hats, gloves, chapstick, nail clipper or wool socks. Drop off at Pax Christi by December 11.

- **Minnesota American Indian Center:** fill a laundry basket with personal and home care products for seniors. Drop off at Pax Christi by December 11.

- **Little Earth:** Purchase items that can be used for bingo party prizes. Pick up a flyer for suggested items. Drop off at Pax Christi by December 11.

- **Blessed Kateri Church:** select an ornament listing a child and a gift request from the tree for children in their faith formation program. Drop off at Pax Christi by December 11.

- **Risen Christ Catholic School:** Cash donations towards tuition, field trips, technology, etc. Drop off at Pax Christi by December 11.

Advent Bible Study

Mondays During Advent, November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 6:30–8:30pm

Pax CAFÉ (Catholic Adult Formation & Enrichment) invites you to join in the study of the "Infancy Narratives." This study focuses on the connection between the Old and New Testaments. Deepen your longing for the Messiah's coming again and ask God to be Emmanuel, "God with us." Make special preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The cost is only \$25, and scholarships are available.

RSVP: Parish Office, 952-941-3150, or register online, www.paxchristi.com

Moms ROCK: Raising Our Christian Kids

Wednesday, November 30, 9:30–11:30am

Vicki Franzen, a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and member of Pax Christi, will speak about how active listening and understanding our own love language can help us enrich our marriage during the busiest time of our lives. In addition to her private practice and group therapy work, Franzen is also involved with the leadership and design of Pax Christi's Pre-Marriage Retreat which is offered at Pax Christi two to three times per year. Complete details are available at www.paxchristi.com/momsrock.

Questions? Mary Kennedy, Dir. of Stewardship, 952-405-7220, or mkennedy@paxchristi.com

Mental Health and Spirituality Support Group

Next Meeting Thursday, December 1, 3:00–4:30pm, Room 221, Sojourner Truth

At Pax Christi, the Mental Health and Spirituality Group is an opportunity for participants who have mental health concerns to both give and receive support, to make a deeper connection with God and oneself, and to be exposed to tools which might help make one's life more manageable. The group meets on the first Thursday of each month from 3:00-4:30pm.

Questions? Contact Jane Schmitz, Director of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7238, or jschmitz@paxchristi.com

6th Annual Holiday Boutique

Saturday, December 3, 9:00am–5:00pm

Don't miss out on this annual event! This juried show will feature a variety of handcrafted items. Over 50 artists are participating in a boutique located in and around Nazareth Hall. A bake sale and luncheon will be held in the Light House, Room 111, in the lower level. Use entrance #5.

Contact: Parish Office, 952-941-3150, or www.paxchristi.com

Pax Christi Bake Sale: Proceeds Benefit Our Youth

Saturday, December 3, 9:00am–5:00pm

Bake your favorite cookies, breads, pies, and bring them to the bake sale. Baked goods can be dropped off at the church in room #111 on Friday, December 2, 4:00–8:00pm, and Saturday, December 3, 7:30–8:45am. Bake sale begins at 9:00am on December 3.

Contact: Parish Office, 952-941-3150, or www.paxchristi.com

December 56er Event: Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, December 3, 5:00–9:15pm

Calling all fifth and sixth graders! Come package meals for children around the world. We will begin with Mass at 5:00pm followed by a pizza dinner. Then, we head to Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen. We'll return for parent pick-up at 9:15 pm. Register online, or download a registration form at www.paxchristi.com. This event is limited to 45 participants, and the registration deadline is November 21.

Questions? Renee Dignan, 952-405-7212, or rdignan@paxchristi.com

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR 7A

Saturday, November 26

Share the Joy Sign-Up Weekend

- 9:00am Overeaters Anonymous
- 4:00pm Private Reconciliation
- 5:00pm MASS - FR. KENNEDY**

Sunday, November 27

Share the Joy Sign-Up Weekend

- 9:00am MASS - FR. MURTAUGH**
- 11:00am MASS - FR. MURTAUGH**
- 3:30pm Teen Choir
- 5:00pm MASS - FR. McMICHAEL**

Monday, November 28

- 8:30am MASS**
- 5:00pm Tai Chi
- 5:30pm Silent Prayer and Meditation
- 6:30pm Pax CAFÉ Bible Study
- 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 370
- 7:00pm Venturing Crew 370

Tuesday, November 29

- 8:30am MASS**
- 9:00am Rosary Group
- 9:30am Women w/Spirit Bible Study
- 5:00pm Children's Choir
- 6:00pm 50+ Basketball
- 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 30

- 9:00am Moms ROCK
- 11:00am Tai Chi
- 5:30pm Community Night
- 6:00pm MASS**
- 6:30pm Living Your Strengths

Thursday, December 1

- 6:45am MASS**
- 9:00am Pax Christi Quilters
- 3:00pm Mental Health/Spirituality
- 6:00pm Pax Christi Basketball
- 6:30pm Instrumentalists Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Alanon
- 7:00pm Alateen
- 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:30pm Singers Rehearsal

Friday, December 2

- 8:30am MASS**

Saturday, December 3

Holiday Boutique 9:00am–5:00pm
 Bake Sale 9:00am–5:00pm

- 9:00am Overeaters Anonymous
- 9:00am Holiday Tea
- 4:00pm Private Reconciliation
- 5:00pm MASS - FR. McMICHAEL**
- 5:00pm 56er Event

Sunday, December 4

Artist's Reception 10:00am–1:00pm

- 9:00am MASS - FR. KENNEDY**
- 9:00am Good Shepherd I
- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:45am Good Shepherd I
- 11:00am MASS - FR. MURTAUGH**
- 3:30pm Teen Choir
- 5:00pm MASS - FR. MURTAUGH**
- 6:00pm Sunday Evening Meal
- 6:30pm Good Shepherd II
- 6:30pm Classroom Program
- 6:30pm Sr. High Faith Formation

7B

READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Daily readings are also available on the Pax Christi website,
www.paxchristi.com/romancatholicdailyreadings.

Readings for the Week of December 4

- Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
- Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Readings for the Week of December 11

- Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
- Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday:** Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30
- Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36
- Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

Readings for the Week of December 18

- Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/
Lk 1:26-38
- Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
- Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
- Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
- Friday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
- Saturday:** **Morning:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

Readings for the Week of December 25

- Sunday:** **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:5–2:2/Mt 2:13-18
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
- Friday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

BULLETIN NOTE: Presiders and Masses in BOLD. "This Week's Calendar" is correct as of bulletin publication date. Additional information can be found on www.paxchristi.com.

PLEASE NOTE: In the worship space, please see a Greeter if you would like to use an assisted listening device.

PRAYER CORNER: Please pray for these loved ones

Carmen, Scott, Rick, Sue, Patty, Randi, Patty, Marge, Gene, Bill, Mary Jo, Sandy, Kari, DeAnna, Bruce, Diane, Jeff, John, Jim, Marlin, and Ed. Pax Christi offers, as a community, the gift of prayer. If you would like to have your name listed in this Prayer Corner during a time of need, contact Pastoral Care, 952-941-3150.

Parishioner Art Exhibit Opens December 3

Opening Reception, Sunday, December 4, 10:00am-1:00pm

Several Pax Christi artists will share their work at the Parishioner Art Exhibit. Join us for the opening reception. Enjoy refreshments, view the art, and talk with the featured artists. The exhibit, which is hosted by the Art Committee, will run until 12:30pm, Sunday, December 18, in the Pacem in Terris Gallery in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Room (room 247).

Questions? Contact the Parish Office, 952-941-3150, or www.paxchristi.com

Vibrations: Making Music on the Labyrinth

Thursday, December 8, 6:30-8:00pm

Advent is a time of darkness, a time to slow down and prepare for the light of Christmas. Where are you on your Advent journey? Explore and deepen your pilgrimage with meditation on the labyrinth. We will use bells to mark our insights. We will gather in the Sanctuary for preparation followed by a walk on the 36' indoor labyrinth. We thank the bell choir for lending bells, making our labyrinth experience more special. Bring a sweater and come prepared to walk in stocking feet. Space is limited, register today!

RSVP by December 7: Carrie Chevalier Mosher, Carrie@Indigoorbis.com, or 952-974-3713

Pax Christi Boomer Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 10, 12:00pm

Come and join the Boomers for a fun afternoon of Christmas cheer starting at noon with a buffet lunch of ham and fixings with a great dessert. Then, the Flemming Fold, a family group, will entertain with American old time, Gospel, and Alpine music. To complete the afternoon, there will be a white elephant gift exchange. A white elephant gift is something you already have around the house you don't like or want anymore and would like to part with (the more humorous the gift the better). Bring one wrapped gift per person. There is no charge for registered Boomer members. There is a \$10.00 fee for non-members.

RSVP by December 5: Connie Wesley, 952-405-7217, or cwesley@paxchristi.com

55+ Singles' Sunday Brunch

Sunday, December 11, 11:30pm, Axel's - Chanhassen

Are you a 55+ single? Join other area singles for food and fun. This month's site is Axels, located at 560 W 78th St, Chanhassen. Order off the menu, and celebrate the season with great menu options.

Reservations Required by Tuesday, December 6: Mary Ellen, 952-942-0178

Marriage Booster Retreat

Saturday, January 21, 2012, 9:30am-4:45pm

Mark your calendars and join other married couples for a Marriage Booster Retreat. Sponsored by Pax Christi Faith Formation and Pastoral Care Ministries and facilitated by Family Fest Ministries, this retreat offers the opportunity for couples to talk about the important issues that affect their marriage and life together. The day incorporates humor and fun in the presentations, and couples leave at the end of the day with a renewed sense of love and hope in their relationship. Cost is \$75 per couple (scholarships available) if registered by January 9, or \$100 per couple after January 10.

Questions? Michael Griffin, 952-405-7230, or Jane Schmitz, 952-405-7238, or jschmitz@paxchristi.com

**PAX CHRISTI
ADVENT
COMMUNITY
NIGHT**

**Wednesday,
November 30,**

**Beginning at 5:30pm
with a community meal**

Join with others from our parish community for an Advent evening to renew our faith for the new liturgical year. How do we open ourselves to the light of Christ? How do we share this light with others? This evening of reflection, prayer, music, and the readings from Isaiah for the four Sundays of Advent will be our guide. All ages are welcome!

5:30-6:15pm

Community Meal is served

6:30pm

Evening Program and Prayer

8:00pm

Evening Concludes

There is no charge but please help us plan and RSVP by contacting the parish office, 952-941-3150, or RSVP online, www.paxchristi.com



GRACING LIFE... Thoughts from Pastoral Care

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 falls at the end of Thanksgiving weekend, but it is an important beginning to a season that is marked by a renewal to enliven hope in our lives. The first three Sundays of the Advent season we hear from Isaiah, 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 images of God as a potter and as a shepherd feeding his flock, clothing us with robes of salvation, wrapping us in mantles of justice, and bringing comfort to all who mourn. These are consoling images as we bump into the frantic ones that often mark this season. The invitation is ours to rest in hope and wonder in what the Incarnation means to us.

To assist you in your Advent journey, you are welcome to utilize the Advent reflection booklets in the Pastoral Care resource racks near door #3 and in the back of the gathering space.

*Hope is the thing with feathers which perches in the soul
and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.*
—Emily Dickinson

SOCIAL JUSTICE: BECAUSE JESUS SAID SO . . .

As Politics Heat Up, Become a 'Faithful' Citizen

What does it mean to be a "faithful" citizen of the United States?

In the eyes of U.S. bishops, it means facing this country's many political challenges with strong moral character – a strong conscience, if you will – that has Catholic social teachings as its foundation.

To that end, our Church's leaders at the local, archdiocesan, and national levels are encouraging you to become more familiar with those Catholic social teachings and consider what they have to say about the hotly debated issues of the day, including immigration, marriage, poverty, and war.

One way to do that is to visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org, a website of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops that will help you understand your political responsibilities from a faith-based point of view.

At the heart of the bishops' advice is a document titled "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" which can be easily found on the website. It is neither a voter's guide nor a scorecard of issues. In short, as the document states, "it calls Catholics to form their consciences in the light of their Catholic faith and to bring our moral principles to the debate and decisions about candidates and issues."

Put another way, "faithful citizenship" isn't about being politically left or politically right but being politically responsible. It's about becoming informed and developing a moral conscience – and then using your conscience in weighing legislation and public issues.

In this way, Catholics learn to think critically and see beyond party politics and self-interest.

As outlined in Fr. Kennedy's recent letter, a copy of "Faithful Citizenship" will be mailed to all registered parish households in January, 2012.

ON OUR JOURNEY OF STEWARDSHIP:

KEEP ONE EYE OPEN FOR STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.

—Mark 13: 33-34

My grandmother Vera was a night owl, one who loved to stay up late and watch TV until the station played the Star Spangled Banner and went off the air. (Now, isn't that a walk down memory lane?!) Then, if she wasn't tired, she'd grab a book and read into the wee hours of the morning before calling it a day. So on the occasional afternoons when she was called upon to watch over her grandchildren while mom ran some errands, the need for a nap would frequently come into play. Vera would gather us children together, hand each of us our own deck of cards with which to play solitaire, and instruct us that we needed to behave as she needed to rest her eyes for a bit. Along with this came a firm warning to behave as she would be napping with "one eye open the entire time, so don't be trying a thing." I absolutely believed that my grandmother possessed some sort of super powers that allowed her to snooze and monitor simultaneously, for time and time again, she managed to emerge from her "sleep" status at just the perfect moment to dole out large doses of grandmotherly justice to the unsuspecting perpetrator.

Just as my grandmother might have faced watching us and resting with a multi-tasking eye, so are we asked to take a look at our own lives in a watchful manner. The time, talents, and treasure we have been given are meant to be put to the best use possible. Advent is the perfect time to take a pause from the hustle and bustle and strip away the demands of daily living to determine if you are alert to the nearly endless opportunities that you have to share your gifts. How have you been called to give of yourself? Watch the ways you use your time, talents, and treasure. If you were called home tomorrow, would you be proud of the way you used your gifts? Giving of oneself doesn't need to be an earth shattering, all-consuming effort. It can be as simple as being the Johnny or Julie on the spot to commit to care for an elderly neighbor's driveway this winter. Perhaps it's determining that there IS time in your schedule to fit in attendance at a weekday Mass. Maybe that "buy one get one free" deal at the grocery store could benefit our Burgundy Bag program and thus a needy family served by PROP. How about being more watchful of where your money goes, and let Pax Christi and organizations that are most important to you be on the receiving end of your "First Fruits" instead of the "What's Leftovers." Be on the lookout for ways you are called to share, and then try one to start. Who knows what can happen when you keep your eyes open.

YEAR END GIVING

Stock

If you are interested in donating stock to Pax Christi Catholic Community before December 31, 2011, 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. 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 during Masses at offertory in the baskets or dropped off anytime during office hours. We also have an after hours 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' icon, 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. Setup 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.

	This Year Actual	This Year Budget	Variance from Budget	Last Year Actual	Variance from Last Year
Week #19 Contributions	57,206	62,000	(4,794)		
YTD through Week #19	852,847	817,000	35,847	832,995	19,852
11-12 Contributions Goal – \$2,600,000					

EFT and credit card giving available. Visit www.paxchristi.com for more information.

July Baptisms

Kyriella Lee Willis
 Mallory Anne Kennedy
 Megan Sophia Kennedy
 Sophia Ledermann
 Jaydon Emmanuel Melone
 Katherine Eleanor Haus
 Samuel Robert Nelson
 Lucy June Barnhart
 Elijah Leroy Daniels-Kriz
 Logan Christopher Flesch
 Claire Grace Heniff

August Baptisms

Elise Lauren Doig
 Selah Clare McGowan
 Annika Elise Harney
 Elizabeth Grace Harney
 Samuel James Ritz
 Nichola Elizabeth Olk
 Eden Jeanine Berhow
 Mason David Davenport
 Andrew James Dreyer
 Emiliano Zaragoza Marin
 Lucia Rose Bohn
 Emma Reese Keenan
 Noah William Krulik
 Connor Joseph Leidel
 Dorothy Marie Ridlehoover

September Baptisms

Megan Delarwelle
 Ashlyn Gerring
 Alexander Johnson
 Connor Malone
 Elise Penn
 Mia Penn
 Knute Pieper
 Will Tweten
 Owen Wagner
 Peyton Weichert

July Weddings

Serena Jackson & Andrew Christensen

August Weddings

Diana Austinson & Steve Gast
 Sandy Turner & John Towey

September Weddings

Jana Jurkovich & Anthony Cummins
 Paige Walter & Kyle Halvorson
 Sara Schroer & Pat Lewis
 Chrissy Fraser & Pat McDaniels
 Seleena Eastman & Nick Sandstrom

July Funerals

George Melvin Waletzko
 Mary Jane Van Hoven
 Alice May Graca
 Hal Pollock
 Virginia Caroline Kennedy

August Funerals

Dorothy Schroeder
 Ralph Koloski

September Funerals

James F. McNeill
 James Vincent Sullivan

July New Members

Jennifer and Joe Bischoff
 and Evie, Riley
 Rick Dimon and Andrea Roberts

Barbara Humphrey

Amycar Pesante and Vaughn Thammavongsa

Lucy and Matthew Pieper
 and Knute, Alyssa

Kevin and Patty Ritz
 and Ella, Sam

Christopher and Lauren Sherlock
 and Abigail, Quinn

Mary Sovis

Michael and Adrine Weisbeck
 and Ansel, Adah

Leo and Marilyn Williams

August New Members

Tom and Denise Bailey
 and Lindsey, Alison

Robert and Lisa Ellis
 and Spencer, Grace, Wilson,
 Maxwell, Owen, Cooper

Pete and Sandy Griffin
 and Sarah, Nicholas

LuAnn Koloski

Tara Lombardy
 and Mi 'Ari Scott

Jake Miesen

Lovia Nsiah

Bill and Beth Peta
 and Gabby, Zach

Tara Peterson

James and Kari Ridlehoover
 and Dorothy

Steven and Susan Skinner
 and Catherine, Sarah

Bob and Mary Taylor
 and AJ, Caelan

Christopher and Michelle TeBrake
 and Jackson

Micah and Manda Tweten
 and Will

September New Members

Doug and Sue Anderson Jr.
 and Becky, Ally

John and Alyson Armstrong
 and Claire, Olivia

Chris and Kathryn Atterberry
 and Cameron, Kellen

Joe and Marie Biso
 and David, Juliet, Phillip, Elizabeth

Dave and Katie Bohn,
 and Brady

Tom Fournelle

Adam Geschwind and Marie Foster
 and Josie

Judy Hilgren

Donald and Norma Jorgensen
 Pat Kelly

Mike and Kim Klenner
 and Taylor, Dylan, Riley, Jordan

Sandra Kretsch

Jeremy and Litrenta Lewitzke

Gregory and Sarah Mabile
 and Liam, Ginny

Mark and JaNell Nelson
 and Jack, Joe, Molly

Michael and Roxanne Neuharth
 and Colton, Justin, Natalie

Lily and David Penn
 and Elise, Mia

Tummy and Ngoe Phan
 and Michelle, Vicky, Sophia

David and Connie Rigali
 and David, Mary

Joe Skaja and Kasey Kapella
 and Louie, Cal

Nathan and Emily Slavik

Nicole and Jason Sobanski
 and Lillian

Andy and Tricia Suedbeck

Deb and Chris Toren
 and Jacob, Cate, Ryan

Jason and Jen Wallace
 and Max, McKenzie, Mason

Elaine Wulff

Greeters Needed at Sunday 5:00pm Mass!

Are you a friendly person? Do you like greeting people? Please consider joining the Pax Christi Greeter Ministry. We are especially in need of greeters at the 5:00pm Sunday Mass. Please contact Kim Albrecht, Liturgy Coordinator, kalbrecht@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7229, if you are interested. Thank you!

Student Christmas Choir Registration!

It's time again to prepare our hearts, minds, and voices for the wonder of Christmas! All Students grades 2-8 are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Choir. The group rehearses Tuesdays at 5:00pm beginning November 29 in preparation for the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Please be certain students are able to attend all four Tuesday rehearsals and the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. To register please email student name, grade, and full contact information including address to Molly Shields, mshields@paxchristi.com.

Prayer Shawls - NOT just for the sick!

Available in the Parish Office

Members of Pax Christi's Prayer Shawl Ministry prayerfully create colorful shawls that you can give as a gift of blessing or joy! Hundreds of shawls have been used to comfort people after a loss, stress, illness/recovery, and someone in the military. BUT, they can also be given in times of JOY: Bridal showers, wedding gifts, baby showers, birthday gifts, or anniversaries. Please call the parish office, 952-941-3150, or stop in, if you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone. A suggested donation of \$20 covers the cost of the yarn.

Catholic Youth Bibles Available!

We have made a large purchase of the newest edition of the Catholic Youth Bible and are making these available to our parish youth for the very low cost of \$15. The regular retail price of this bible is \$26.95, so you won't get a better deal anywhere! We're asking our youth in middle school and high school faith formation to bring their bibles with them to class each week, and if they need one, this is the bible to purchase. They would even make wonderful Christmas gifts! To buy one (or more), send your payment in with your student, and we'll send the bible home with him/her. Or contact Michael Griffin, mgriffin@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7230; or Cindy Novak, cnovak@paxchristi.com, 952-405-7214, to make arrangements to pick one up directly from our offices during business hours. Checks can be made payable to Pax Christi.



cut here

2011 INCARNATION SEASON SCHEDULE

Private Reconciliation

Saturdays, December 3, 10, 17 4:00-4:30pm
 Monday, December 13 (in the sanctuary) 7:00pm
Multiple priests available

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day Mass

Wednesday, December 7 *Fr. McMichael* 6:00pm
 Thursday, December 8 *Fr. Kennedy* 6:45am
Fr. Murtaugh 8:30am

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

Mass with Children's Liturgy of the Word *Fr. Murtaugh* 4:00pm
 Christmas Mass (*Nazareth Hall*) *Fr. Kennedy* 4:00pm
 Christmas Mass *Fr. Murtaugh* 6:00pm
 Christmas Mass *Fr. Kennedy* 8:00pm
 Lessons and Carols, followed by 9:30pm
 Solemn Celebration of Christmas *Fr. Kennedy* 10:00pm

Christmas Day *No 5:00pm Mass*

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Mass *Fr. Murtaugh* 9:00am
 Christmas Mass *Fr. McMichael* 11:00am

New Year's Eve/Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31 and Sunday, January 1
 Regular Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 7 and Sunday, January 8
 Regular Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule

Baptism of the Lord

Monday, January 9, 8:30am, Regular Weekday Mass

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E-mail: pax@paxchristi.com Website: www.paxchristi.com

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday ~ 8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday ~ 8:00am – Noon
Saturday ~ 8:00am – 12:30pm

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday ~ 5:00pm *Nursery available at all weekend Masses.
Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.*
Sunday ~ 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Weekday Masses

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Private)

Saturdays ~ 4:00–4:30pm

Community Council

Fr. Patrick Kennedy	Mike Lindseth	
Sue Kelley, Parish Director	Mary Frances Messer	
Shari Steffen, Chair	Carrie Chevalier Mosher	
Eric Anderson	Jim O'Laughlin	Joan Waterstreet
Greg Halvorson	Steven Olinger	Mark Weber
Tom Keane	Jim Sankovitz	

Parish Trustees Sue Fier, Bruce Koehn

Finance Council Jim Sankovitz, Chairperson

Staff Contacts – 952-405-7xxx

Pastor	Fr. Patrick Kennedy	x200
Sr. Associate Pastor	Fr. Bill Murtaugh	x245
Deacon	Al Schroeder	x205
Parish Director	Sue Kelley	x210
Director of Faith Formation	Michael Griffin	x230
Director of Leadership Development	Vicki Klima	x211
Director of Operations	Ken Reineccius	x250
Director of Pastoral Care	Jane Schmitz	x238
Director of Stewardship	Mary Kennedy	x220
Director of Worship and Music	Donna Kasbohm	x240
Accountant	Anne Swenson	x202
Administrative Support	Sue Schroer	x209
Administrative Support	Connie Wesley	x217
Bulletin, Website, Creative Services	Melissa Nault	x221
Building Services Coordinator	Al Haider	x232
Building Services	Terry Lee	x233
Building Services	Todd Nelson	x233
Children's Choir	Molly Shields	x243
Faith Formation	Reneé Dignan	x212
Faith Formation	Carol Osterhus	x213
Middle School Youth, Sr. High Youth	Cindy Novak	x214
Nursery	Kate Gartin	x242
Pastoral Care	Mary Ann Callahan	x227
Receptionist	Cindy Soeldner	x219
Special Needs	Michael Griffin	x230
Teen Choir	Angie O'Brien	x243
Wedding/Liturgical Coordinator	Kim Albrecht	x229

CHRIS KUHLMAN
Attorney-At-Law
612-349-2747

THOMAS L. KUHLMAN
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Licensed Psychologist
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