



The Season of Advent

at Pax Christi Catholic Community

952-941-3150 • www.paxchristi.com • The Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 18, 2011

BEFORE I FORGET...

—Fr. Bill Murtaugh

Christmas Traffic

Three, two, one, liftoff

Signals Mission Control. And off they go

To the dark parts of the planets

In their pressurized spacesuits,

Cocooned in technology, the astronauts.

Mission control whispers in someone's ear.

Yes, she says, I will. And in due time

A different traveler makes a quieter journey,

Arriving hungry, naked, but true to instructions,

Docking on Earth, taking the one small step.

—U. A. Santhorpe

King David —the people of Israel adored him like no other king they ever had. David was the one who captured Jerusalem and moved in the Ark of the Covenant. After he had built his own palace, he told the prophet Nathan that he would build a palace for the Ark.

The young King David was wise, abundantly loyal to Yahweh, yet he had it wrong this time. In today's reading he is excited to build a proper home for the Ark of the Covenant, a holy box of acacia wood overlaid with gold and containing who knows what but was as close as Israel ever officially got to a representation in space of their God who dwelled in eternity. Even the prophet Nathan said, in effect, "Go ahead." But God had a better idea, as He so often has shown throughout the sacred scriptures. God later asks David, through the prophet Nathan, "Should you build me a house to dwell in?"

God reminds David what He the Lord has already done for David. Furthermore, God promises to make his house an eternal dynasty to include David, his people, and all their descendants forever. What an extraordinary promise; it must have taken David's breath away. So time out, great King David! It's not all about you —nor me, nor the rest of the people; rather, it's about God and what God does for us. The starting point is God's life, God's love, God's plan for us, and God's promise to raise an heir from the family lineage of King David.

As you and I prepare to celebrate the feast of Christmas next Sunday, we need to remember that our celebrations are all about God becoming one of us. We cannot reach up to God...intellectually...morally...or even in terms of good works. And that is why we need Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of God reaching down to us when we could not reach up to God.

In his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren writes, "We typically begin at the wrong starting point —ourselves. We ask questions like: What do I want to be? What should I do with my

Continued on page 2

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**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

life? What are my goals, my ambitions, my dreams for my future? But focusing on ourselves will never reveal our life's purpose." We've all tried that, done that, and where has it gotten us? One of life's greatest tragedies is to grow older, become more self-absorbed, and stop engaging others. People often fear losing their independence and withering away their "golden years" in a care center. But there are folks in care centers all across our country who feel more useful and needed than a lot of folks who never end up in care centers.

What God was telling David (and us) was: "Think big, think beyond yourself, and let me be God. It's not what you've done for me. Look what I have planned for you!"

And look what God had planned for Mary of Nazareth! The very first thing the angel Gabriel did for Mary was reassure her with the same words that would punctuate Jesus' ministry to his disciples: "Do not be afraid" (Luke 1:30). But we all tremble at times; some more than others. A visit to one of the shelters for homeless men, women, and children should open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds. They are not just "the homeless." They are human beings like you, your father/mother, your brother/sister, your niece/nephew, a cousin, a friend. Dorothy Day saw Jesus in each person coming to the Catholic Worker House for food. The poor, especially children, should give us sober pause and force us to reflect on our lives as gospel people. We are blessed—and we should bless others less fortunate.

Just as our Australian friends say "g'day, mate," in Jesus' time people said, "Rejoice." The angel greets Mary: "Rejoice, you who have plenty of reason to rejoice." "Yet it may not have seemed to this young girl—probably, thirteen or fourteen, the usual age for marriage when women were often old at thirty—that she had much reason to be grateful. As she points out to the angel, she is not yet married, while the message is that she is nevertheless to become pregnant. If she accepts God's will for her, she'll be "in an awful jam." Should she turn her will over to a God whose plans for her are this frightening?

The answer lies in God's power, "the power of the Most High." The angel re-

minds Mary that "nothing is impossible with God." Mary's "dilemma" is a "lack of power." But when the angel assures her that God has power, and then some, Mary "makes a decision to turn her will and her life over to the care of God." God is able to strengthen the powerless, so it is wise to "trust the infinite God rather than our finite selves," as Mary does, thus reversing Eve's bad decision in the beginning that was about Eve's will and not God's will.

Just after today's Gospel, Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who says, "And blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled." Blessed, too, are we who have trusted that a God greater than ourselves could do "great things for us."

As I reflect on my life journey, I have been blessed. I have never known hunger. I have never worried about my next meal. I've always had a home, a bed, and parents who took an interest in my life. I've been given a great education. Wonderful people have blessed me with their friendship and caring. I've had some "rough patches" in my life, but I am thankful for my life, both the good and bad days. I am not bragging by any means, just blessed, like you, to have a God who has allowed me to have life on this earth and who has given all of us the gift of Christ the Savior, the reason we celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas.

Clip and post:**Commandments for Contentments**

1. Remember: I am the Lord your God—and you're not!
2. You shall learn to trust.
3. You shall learn to live in the here and now.
4. You shall learn to honor and respect your boundaries and the boundaries of others.
5. You shall keep your word.
6. You shall not be in a hurry.
7. You shall not take yourself too seriously.
8. You shall not expect life to be fair.
9. You shall not "should" on yourself.
10. You shall learn to laugh.
11. You shall help another each day.
12. You shall be grateful.

Merry Christmas!



GRACING LIFE...Thoughts from Pastoral Care

Gracing Life with Spiritual Reading

Tolle, lege: take up and read.
 –St. Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*

Spiritual reading, often referred to as *lectio divina*, is an ancient practice of letting the text that one reads nourish the reader and allowing the word to become a dance between the reader and the writer, between the inspired and the inspired. Spiritual reading holds out the promise of fresh truth and insight to spark a newfound understanding of our spiritual journey and the way we encounter the presence of God on that path.

Peter of Celle, a twelfth-century Benedictine abbot, reflected on spiritual reading and wrote, “Reading is the soul’s food, light, lamp, refuge, consolation, and the spice of every spiritual savor.” In spiritual reading groups, participants are encouraged to examine how a part of the reading has provided an entryway for a deeper encounter with the presence of God in the word that intersects with their own life story.

You are invited to be enriched and refreshed here at Pax Christi by joining a spiritual reading group. There will be two reading groups forming in winter and early spring of 2012. Facilitators Doug Mertz and Jane Schmitz will be using the spiritual journal *Weavings* as the text for reflection and discussion. If you would like to be a part of the spiritual reading group, contact Jane Schmitz at the Parish Office to pick up a copy of *Weavings* to be read prior to the reading groups held on Saturdays, January 28 and March 17 from 9:00–10:30am. Space is limited, so register early.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: BECAUSE JESUS SAID SO . . .

Lunch Line is Now Where the Hardship Shows

There’s another sign that the growing toll of a bad economy is hitting middle-class families in Eden Prairie and other suburbs once thought to be poverty-proof. That sign is the growing number of schoolchildren enrolled in free and reduced-price lunch programs offered by school districts.

The *Star Tribune* newspaper reported December 5 that: nearly 33,000 Minnesota kids have joined the program in the past two years; low-income students now make up 37 percent of Minnesota’s student population, and poverty has risen to the point that some high schools now have their own food-shelf programs.

Eden Prairie may have been recognized as one of the best cities of its size in the United States and an outstanding place to raise a family, but the growth in EP students using the subsidized National School Lunch Program is no less amazing than the overall state numbers.

A year ago the Hennepin South Services Collaborative, analyzing U.S. Census Bureau numbers, reported that as of the 2009-2010 school year, 16 percent of Eden Prairie schoolchildren qualified for free or reduced-priced lunches – a 214 percent increase since the 2000-2001 school year.

Even if one uses the more conservative number from the Eden Prairie School District – 12.7 percent of EP schoolchildren enrolled in the subsidized lunch program – the extent of the need is substantial.

As Catholics, how do we respond to the mounting evidence that poverty continues its upswing? A consistent theme of Catholic social teaching is responding to the needs of the poor. Are we doing all that we are able to do?

PaxJAM AND 56er's: UPCOMING EVENTS!

All 5th – 8th graders (and friends!) are invited to participate in several exciting activities that are scheduled over the next few months. **Check out this line-up:**

- **January 14:** Bowling Party
- **February 18:** Snow Tubing
- **March 23:** Friday Night LIVE (with inflatables, laser tag, music, and more!)
- **April 14:** Twins Game

Additional information will be available on the website, in upcoming bulletins, and on bulletin boards at Pax Christi. Check out the Pax Christi Youth Facebook page, too! Register on line, and pay attention to deadlines so you won't miss out on any of the fun. Also, watch your mail for more information!

JANUARY EVENT

PaxJAM and 56er's: Bowling Party!

January 14, 1:00–6:00pm

Join us for a service project and bowling party! We will pack lunches for a homeless shelter before heading over to Park Tavern in St. Louis Park for our bowling party. Cost is \$20 and includes transportation, bowling, and shoe rental. You may bring additional money to purchase snacks, if desired. We will also be kicking off our 2012 Operation Christmas Child collection, and we're asking all participants to bring in small toys that children ages 10-14 would enjoy. (These items will be packed at our March event.) Register on line at www.paxchristi.com, or download a flyer and register. The deadline for registrations is January 8.

Questions? Contact Renee Dignan, rdignan@paxchristi.com, 952-405-7212, or Cindy Novak, cnovak@paxchristi.com, 952-405-7214.

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Inside each of us is a still, silent open space that goes forever. It is a place where time and space have no relevance and no existence, a place where fear has no meaning, a place so real and accessible that all anyone needs to do is recognize it. COME EXPERIENCE THE SILENCE - Mondays, 5:30–7:30pm, in the Mother Teresa Room (when the building is open). Come any time between 5:30 and 6:45 and Be Still. Discussion starts at 7:00pm if you wish to stay. Use what works for you. **Questions? Contact parishioner Tim Daley, 612-308-7627.**

Parishioner Art Exhibit Ends THIS Sunday

Runs Through Sunday, December 18, 12:30pm, in the Pacem in Terris Gallery

Several Pax Christi artists' works are on display at the Parishioner Art Exhibit. Don't forget to stop by before Sunday, December 18.

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

Balancing Your Emotions

Tuesday, January 3, 2012, 7:00–8:30pm

Do you find yourself being overwhelmed with life? Do you experience intense, prolonged periods of sadness, anxiety, emptiness, difficulty with sleeping or eating? Are there times when you find it difficult to concentrate or feel completely unmotivated? Throughout our lives there can be times when life feels more difficult to manage, and our emotions feel out of balance. Depression, anxiety, and seasonal affective disorder (SAD) can affect many aspects of our lives including our relationships, our health, our work, and even our spirituality. Join parishioner, psychotherapist, and licensed marriage and family therapist Vicki Franzen to hear about an integrated approach to living with these mental health issues.

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

Mental Health and Spirituality Support Group

Next Meeting Thursday, January 5, 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

Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 7:00–8:30pm, Room 212

Mindfulness meditation is an ancient technique used to calm the mind and increase awareness of God, self, and the world. Join parishioners and practitioners Carolyn and David von Weiss to find out more about mindfulness meditation, its benefits to wellness, and the techniques used to achieve mindfulness and relaxation.

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

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR 5A

Saturday, December 17

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

Sunday, December 18

Parishioner Art Exhibit Ends Today!

9:00am MASS - FR. KENNEDY
w/DEACON AL SCHROEDER PREACHING
 9:00am Good Shepherd I
 9:00am Sunday School
 10:45am Good Shepherd I
11:00am MASS - FR. KENNEDY
w/DEACON AL SCHROEDER PREACHING
 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

Monday, December 19

8:30am MASS
 5:30pm Silent Prayer and Meditation
 6:00pm Decorate Church for Christmas
 6:30pm Pax CAFÉ Advent Bible Study

Tuesday, December 20

8:30am MASS
 9:00am Rosary Group
 5:00pm Children's Choir
 6:00pm 50+ Basketball
 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 21

11:00am Tai Chi
6:00pm MASS
 6:30pm RCIA Session
 6:45pm Wednesdays @ Pax CAFÉ

Thursday, December 22

6:45am MASS
 6:00pm Pax Christi Basketball
 6:30pm Instrumentalists Rehearsal
 7:00pm Alanon
 7:00pm Alateen
 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous
 7:00pm Christmas Rehearsal
 7:30pm Singers Rehearsal

Friday, December 23

8:30am MASS

Saturday, December 24

Building Closed Following Masses

4:00pm MASS - FR. MURTAUGH
4:00pm MASS in Nazareth Hall
- FR. KENNEDY
6:00pm MASS - FR. MURTAUGH
8:00pm MASS - FR. KENNEDY
 9:30pm Lessons and Carols
10:00pm SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF
CHRISTMAS MASS - FR. KENNEDY

Sunday, December 25

Building Closed Following Masses

9:00am MASS - FR. MURTAUGH
11:00am MASS - FR. McMICHAEL

Monday, December 26

Building Closed; NO Mass

Tuesday, December 27

Building Closed Following Mass

8:30am MASS - FR. KENNEDY

5B SCHEDULE



2011 INCARNATION SEASON SCHEDULE

Private Reconciliation

Saturdays, December 17 4:00–4:30pm

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

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

Christmas Mass Fr. Kennedy 4:00pm
 (in Nazareth Hall; ASL Interpreter)

Christmas Mass Fr. Murtaugh 6:00pm

Christmas Mass Fr. Kennedy 8:00pm

Lessons and Carols, followed by
 Solemn Celebration of Christmas Fr. Kennedy 9:30pm
 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

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.

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.

Pax Christi MLK Community Night

Sunday, January 15, Beginning with 5:00pm Mass

Join us as we honor the legacy and vision of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and celebrate our call to justice as people of faith. The evening program will feature zAmya Theater Project which is a unique creative process that brings together homeless and housed individuals to create and perform a theatrical production. zAmya turns "homeless" from a word back into a person or persons – living, breathing, laughing, singing persons. Who act — yes, act — in entertaining, genre-defying productions that are guaranteed to change your mind, if not your life. This project is sponsored by St. Stephen's Human Services, a recipient of a Pax Christi Justice Grant for many years. **Format for the evening:** We will begin with 5:00pm Mass followed by dinner. The program with zAmya Theater Project will begin at 6:45pm. The evening concludes at 8:00pm. There is no charge for the evening, and child care is available. Help us plan with an RSVP by calling the parish office at 952-942-3150 or online at www.paxchristi.com.

Questions? Michael Griffin, Director of Faith Formation, 952-405-7230, or mgriffin@paxchristi.com

Marriage Booster Retreat

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

Mark your calendars and join other married couples for a Marriage Booster Retreat. It is 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. Register online NOW at www.paxchristi.com.

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

PaxJAM Service Event - 7th and 8th Grade Youth: Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, January 28, 1:30pm–8:00pm

This is an opportunity to go to a favorite service site. Join us as we package meals to be sent to starving people around the world. We will meet at Pax Christi in the Garden Level youth room at 1:30pm, then bus over to Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen. After packing food for an hour and a half, we'll come back to Pax Christi for an evening of FILM, FOOD, & FAITH where we'll enjoy some hangout time in the youth room, watch a movie, and have pizza and other snacks. The evening will end at 8:00pm. There is no cost for this activity, but space is limited, so sign up soon. You can register online at www.paxchristi.com. We will also need adults to help chaperone. Contact Cindy so we can get the proper background check forms filled out prior to this event.

Questions? Cindy Novak, Sr. High Youth Minister, 952-405-7214, or cnovak@paxchristi.com

Cana Dinner – Register NOW, Early Bird Special!

Saturday, February 18, 2012

The annual Pax Christi Cana Dinner, celebrating marriage, is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2012. This year you can purchase tickets online with a credit card. If you make reservations by January 2, you'll pay just \$50 per couple, last year's price. Tickets would make a great Christmas gift for your friends, parents, married children, or your spouse. Purchase online at www.paxchristi.com or contact Connie Wesley.

Questions? Contact Connie Wesley, 952-405-7217, or cwesley@paxchristi.com

HOMELESSNESS EXHIBIT AT PAX CHRISTI

An oral history project of homelessness in Minnesota.

January 7 – February 12 in Martin Luther King, Jr., Room 247

Exhibit Opening Sunday, January 8, 10:00am – 1:00pm

Pax Christi, in collaboration with St. Stephen's Human Services, invites you to join us for the opening of this powerful audio /photo exhibition created from hundreds of conversations with individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. Through striking portraits and first person audio, *Homeless is My Address, Not My Name* will undoubtedly alter your perceptions of homelessness.

This exhibit is presented as a collaboration between the Pax Christi Justice Grants Board (working towards ending homelessness and alleviating poverty) and the arts committee (working to provide the community with art that fosters introspection and action).

Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150, or visit us online, www.paxchristi.com.

Support Pax Christi Catholic Community In Remembrance Gifts



My gift is given in **memory** of:

Name _____

My gift is given in **honor** of:

Name _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

My Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Please notify the following person of this gift:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Thank you for your generosity!

Please fill out and detach this form and
send it to Pax Christi Catholic Community.

**Pax Christi Catholic Community, 12100 Pioneer Trail
Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208
952-941-3150 • www.paxchristi.com**

Travel to the Holy Land and Istanbul with Fr. Bill November 7-16, 2012

Magi Travel is offering a 9-day journey to the Holy Land. It is being hosted by Fr. Bill Murtaugh. Highlights include time in Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Holy Hour in the Garden of Gethsemane. An optional extension to Istanbul, November 16-19, is available. Brochures are available in the parish office or on the bulletin board at Entrance #3. You may also contact Magi Travel, 952-949-0065, or info@magitravelinc.com, for complete details of this Holy Land experience.



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Lead Them Not into Temptation

Eden Prairie police remind us to take care not to leave gifts or packages where they can be seen through car windows as car break-ins are prevalent this time of year. Theft can even happen in the church parking lot, so be careful about what you leave in your car.

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!

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.

Volunteer Grocery Shoppers Needed!

Do you enjoy interacting with others? Do you like to shop? Volunteer to be a Grocery Shopping Assistant at Catholic Charities Branch I Food Shelf in Minneapolis. They are looking for volunteers to spend a few hours a month greeting guests and guiding them through their newly redesigned food shelf to ensure the guest finds the food they need for their families. To sign up or to receive more information, please contact Meg Burman, 612-204-8420 or Megan.Burman@cctwincities.org.

ON OUR JOURNEY OF STEWARDSHIP:

MARY SETS THE STEWARD STANDARD

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." —Luke 1: 38

Like many of you, I took piano lessons during my youth. My first teacher came to our house once a week, and as I progressed from beginner up the skill ladder, she often would remark to my mother that I had been blessed with the hands of a concert pianist, holding up my hands in awe and remarking that my "blessedly long fingers would, with practice, enable me to make difficult chords on the black and whites with ease – but only if I were to practice, practice, practice." Weekly I listened to her repeat the loving phrase about my blessedly long fingers, and in a nod to the storyline of the *Music Man*, I began to believe that I had true potential. I thought it, and I believed in my talents aided by my long fingers. Well, she moved away and recommended another piano teacher, so I packed up my books and made the weekly trip to the new teacher's home, intent on impressing her with my awesome fingers and mad skills. Week after week she listened to me and guided me, and week after week her directions grew more stilted and the expression on her face more pained until during what would be my last lesson as I worked through the beautiful strains of "Für Elise," she suddenly grabbed my hands firmly and shook them about as she proclaimed, "No! No! No! You may have the long fingers, but they are not instruments at all! You have no business playing piano, and I am done trying to make this work." This news came as a surprise only to me, not to my parents or siblings, the latter being exceedingly pleased that they had received a sudden release from listening to the torture of Mary's practice time. Today, I still own the long fingers but realize that there is much more to giftedness than just one's anatomy. For a model of best use of gifts, one needs to look no further than this weekend's Gospel reading. In it we hear of Mary's answer to becoming an instrument of the Lord. Her resounding answer of "yes" set the standard for stewardship as a way of living. Mary's willingness to serve God's call required her to fully use all of her gifts. She needed courage, compassion, patience, endurance, love, and much more to fulfill her role as the supreme mother and steward. She may have been scared; her role was not easy, but the blessings of her shared gifts changed the world. Each of us has an opportunity to use our gifts to be the instrument of discipleship and stewardship in today's world. How have you been called to be the instrument of your gifts?

Have You Had a Chance to Decide How You Would Like to Get ENGAGED?

A hearty thank you goes out to the over one-third of the parish who have responded to our Annual Stewardship Renewal with pledges of time, talent, and treasure for 2012. We want to wrap this year's renewal up and still would like to **ENGAGE** ALL of our households. Please fill out and return your Time/Talent forms and Treasure Intention Card as soon as possible. Each and every gift makes a difference. How are you called to get **ENGAGED** in the life of Pax Christi?

YEAR END GIVING

Stock

If you are interested in donating stock to Pax Christi Catholic Community before December 31, 2011, please contact Anne Swenson, CPA, 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 a secure 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.

Please Note: the parish offices will be closed on December 26 and 27.

	This Year Actual	This Year Budget	Variance from Budget	Last Year Actual	Variance from Last Year
Week #22 Contributions	38,958	40,000	(1,042)		
YTD through Week #22	990,865	963,000	27,865	985,350	5,515
11-12 Contributions Goal – \$2,600,000					

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

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

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

**Please deliver
 by December 17.**



**2012
 Annual
 Renewal**

**Please don't forget
 to return your financial
 pledge cards. Thank you.**

Parish Office

12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208
 Phone: 952-941-3150 Fax: 952-941-7942
 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 *Nursery available at all weekend Masses.
 Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.*
 Saturday ~ 5:00pm
 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 Supv., Hospitality Coordinator	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

&
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