

PAX

CHRISTI

Catholic Community

952-941-3150 • www.paxchristi.com • Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 5, 2012

MY FRIENDS: THE JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF NEW LIFE

-Fr. Patrick Kennedy



environment for those who have grown old and await the consolation of God’s love and mercy. But while I honor their work, I hope and pray I won’t need one of their beds.

As I found the room the woman was in, I was struck by the peaceful silence that enveloped her space. There was lots of activity out in the hall. The door was open wide, but for some reason the room was quiet and still. So was she. Tucked under covers up to her chin, her eyes were closed, her breathing shallow. She was alone. I pulled out my little vial of holy oil and I began to say the prayers for the Sacrament of the Sick. Then I dabbed a little oil on her forehead praying, “Through this holy oil, may the Lord help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.” And then because her hands were deep under the covers and I couldn’t anoint them, I simply prayed, “May the Lord who has freed you from all your sins, save you and raise you up.”

After I anointed her, I sat with her for a few moments. I wondered what her life was like when she was up and kicking around. As I did, my eyes glanced around

her meager room. There was not much there except directly in front of her as she lay in bed were loads of pictures pinned on a bulletin board – snapshots taken at moments in her life, recording better times when she was up and around and in good health. There were pictures of a husband and her kids. There was a family shot with her husband and her sitting on a couch, her kids gathered around. It was a different time. She must have been at her prime, her husband and kids, too. Where had they all gone? What were they doing now? I am sure if she could have spoken, she would have explained it all to me. But she couldn’t, and so I only could guess. After a few minutes, I gave her a blessing and asked God to be with her and all those in those pictures wherever they were. I left her serene environment, reentered the noisy hallway bustling with activity, nurses passing out meds, aides helping other patients move from point A to point B, and made my way out the door.

Moments like that always get me thinking. There are 79 million baby boomers. We are people who were born between the years of 1946–1964. We comprise the largest segment of the population. We

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have the possibility of retiring at record numbers. We will tap into Social Security like no other generation has before us. We will avail ourselves in large numbers using Medicare as the usual way of paying for our health costs. We will form one of the largest voting blocs in the United States. And in our dotage, we will be a force to be reckoned with over time. Our contributions to society will not be the things we have to give; those are being saved for our lineage who hope their inheritance will not be eaten up by some nursing facility that cares for us when our loved ones can't. No, our contribution will simply be the wisdom gained over time, forged by success and tragedy. Hopefully, as it is shared, it will be heeded by those who follow in our footsteps.

When I speak to people who are growing old, I have discovered over time the challenges they face, personally and communally in their lives. Physical limitations are the biggest fear and distraction many face as they grow older. The reality is their bodies are giving out. Strength and fitness, even in those who have a good set of genes, become more limited over time. Memories dim. Eyesight grows poor. The accoutrements of our lives change dramatically. Canes, walkers, lifelines, hearing aids, wheelchairs all seem to accumulate around us and stare us in the face day after day reminding us of our growing dependence on them and the dwindling of independence we have had throughout our lives. While it kills them to do so, many who have always been there to help are now having to swallow their pride and be the ones who need the assistance of someone else.

There are many examples of the public face of growing old. But there is also the private struggle people have. Often, even if growing old with others is involved, it is an ultimate test each elderly person faces and must confront. It is simply the experience of loneliness that tries even those who are surrounded daily by those who love them. And while I am not an expert, especially when it comes to geriatric psychology, I believe in my experience this is the great cross those growing old must carry.

The loneliness I speak about is not just the physical reality that happens when someone's spouse dies, or they don't have anybody with them on a daily basis. The seclusion that comes when people age is more a spiritual reality because what they face and how they face it becomes very unique and personal. If they are able to think it through, they realize their own mortality in a way others don't. They know the clock is ticking. Time is short, and the next adventure awaits them. Even the person of strongest faith finds that faith flickering greatly when the experience of a lived life changes dramatically and is coming to an end.

I have never recorded how many times I have sat with and talked to people who find themselves on a solitary journey when it comes to aging and growing old. They don't want to bother anyone with their troubles. They don't want to admit they have fallen and can't get up, hoping against hope to find the strength to rise before somebody finds them on the floor. They are overwhelmed by doctors, medications, a laundry list of what ails them, and they retreat, seeking refuge in their own spirit, again not wanting to dampen anyone else's spirit. They try to sort it out, attempting to be good sports and striving to grow old gracefully all the while pondering its meaning in their hearts.

The elderly in our midst do not want to be a burden. Most want their loved ones to keep on living and not have to be bothered by the shortcomings that befall us when age creeps in. But one of the things I have learned, having the privilege to walk with many senior citizens during this particular part of their journey in life, is that slowing down and moving toward their final reward is not a burden but a grace to all of us who witness in them the enormous courage they have to muster to stay with this particular chapter in their lives. And even though prayers and presence can't lift the sense of interior loneliness they might feel in life, these go a long way in acknowledging the gift every life is, especially when they belong to us and we belong to them.

It is more than mere companionship. When being with them it isn't the words we say that are important. It is our company with them where they are and not where we want them to be that facilitates the Holy Spirit to continue to draw them deeper into the life of God than into the life of this world. For they are going the way every human goes. And for each of us, we come to realize in watching them make this progress, advancing toward light, happiness, and eternal peace and wholeness, that someday we will be on the same voyage. Even in the midst of people who love us the most, we, too, will have to walk it alone.

Maybe the greatest contribution the baby boomers can give for the generations who follow us and will ultimately care for us in our need is to make every effort to enter this period of our lives summoning the grace we have received from the One who made us in the first place. And, in the midst of all of the trials and tribulations aging brings upon us, we will know in the depths of our spirit and in our solitary journey that it is God who waits for us with great love and lets us know when we enter into eternal life, we will never experience loneliness again.

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



GRACING LIFE... Thoughts from Pastoral Care

Gracing Life with the Power of Prayer

Prayer requires more of the heart than the tongue. –Adam Clarke

More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. –Alfred Lord Tennyson

The ministry of prayer is an important and vital one in the Church. At Pax Christi there are individuals who share their time and prayerful presence in Prayer Ministry, offering petitions to God on behalf of others who request prayers. They embody the spirit of what Patricia Livingston suggests in her book *Let in the Light*:

Into God's hands I commend my loved ones, my fears and dreams, our struggling nation, our world so torn with terror and revenge and countless acts of pain. I can feel myself lighten in this praying. Into God's hands—those hands that alone can hold and heal, bring life from death, be Light that the darkness will never overcome—I commend it all.

Did You Know?

Pax Christi offers a variety of ways to be involved in Prayer Ministry. Please contact Mary Ann Callahan, 952-405-7227, or macallahan@paxchristi.com, if you would like to be a person contacted to pray for others in need or if you find yourself in need of prayer at a particular time in your life.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: BECAUSE JESUS SAID SO . . .

Pax Christi Hosts Legislative Briefing. Learn How to Speak for the Poor.

Members of Pax Christi can explore issues of interest to Catholics – housing, health care, voting rights, and more – when we host a legislative briefing from the archdiocese's Office for Social Justice on Monday, February 6, from 7:00–8:30pm.

Pax Christi is one of only three parishes hosting the legislative briefings. The others are Lumen Christi Church, St. Paul, and St. Mary of the Lake, White Bear Lake.

The Office for Social Justice, which is giving the presentations, works with state lawmakers, Catholic parishes, citizens,

and other non-profit organizations to advocate for the needs of those living in poverty. OSJ staff will be outlining the 2012 legislative priorities for Catholic Charities and explaining how you can use your voice on social justice issues.

Can't make the Pax Christi briefing but want to speak on behalf of the needy? You can find the Office for Social Justice online at www.cctwincities.org. Click on "Advocacy," then "Taking Action," and "Action Alerts" to sign up for e-mails that will notify you about pressing issues being considered by lawmakers.

The Justice Council at Pax Christi reminds you that life is political but doesn't have to be partisan. Become informed about important issues, and constructively use your voice and your vote to protect the disadvantaged, as Catholic social teachings call us to do.

To learn more about what Pax Christi is doing for Social Justice, contact us at justice@paxchristi.com, or Michael Griffin, 952-405-7230.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT WWW.PAXCHRISTI.COM

Due to the large volume of events we offer at Pax Christi, we have to keep our bulletin announcements brief. Please visit us online www.paxchristi.com for additional information and registration details. Click on the event listed in the "Calendar Of Events" column on the right side of the home page.

Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.

• Legislative Briefing at Pax Christi

Monday, February 6, 7:00pm

The Office for Social Justice of Catholic Charities will present an informative, interactive briefing on the intersection of Catholic social teaching and some of the social justice issues of the day including housing, health care, and voting rights. Join others from the parish and around the Catholic Sowers of Justice Network who are advocating in their faith. There is no charge, and no registration needed. Go to www.cctwincities.org and click 'advocacy' for the Office for Social Justice web site.

Questions? Michael Griffin, Dir. of Faith Formation, 952-405-7230

• Southwest Grief Coalition

Thursdays, February 9, 16, 23, 5:30–7:30pm, St. Andrew Luth.

The Eden Prairie churches of the Southwest Grief Coalition continue their series, *Living and Growing Through Loss*, at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. The evening will include a light meal, followed by a speaker exploring some aspect of death-related loss. Participants are welcome to attend any or all of the speaker presentations. For more information visit www.paxchristi.com/bereavementministry.

Questions? Jane Schmitz, Dir. of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7238

• Environmental Expo

Sunday, February 12, in Dorothy Day Hall Following All Morning Masses

What would you like to know? What cooking methods use less energy and save nutrients? What do I do with old telephones, oven cleaners, medicines, etc.? What is happening with global warming? How did the lakes get poisonous water? What's such a big deal about LED lights? How can I reduce my water bill? What are the very best foods for my family?

Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150

• 55+ Singles' Sunday Brunch

Sunday, February 12, 11:30pm, Chez Daniel, Bloomington

Are you a 55+ single? Join other area singles for food and fun. This month's site is Chez Daniel Restaurant located in the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2800 American Blvd., Bloomington. This will be a buffet lunch, and cash or credit cards accepted. Reservations required by Wednesday, February 8.

RSVP: Stevie, 952-941-9295, or Kate, 952-934-5281

• Divorce and Beyond Series

Mondays, Beginning February 13, 6:30–8:30pm, St. Patrick's, Edina

The loss of a relationship through separation and divorce poses one of the most difficult transitions a person can face. The coalition of Catholic churches in the southwest metro offers an eight-week facilitated closed support group for those who have experienced a divorce. Register by calling Patti Brady, Pastoral Minister, 952-941-3164, x 113.

Questions? Jane Schmitz, Dir. of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7238

• Pax Christi Environmental Challenge Ministry

Monday, February 13, 7:00pm–8:30pm in Room 201

New members are welcome and needed. Please join us.

Questions? Michael Griffin, 952-405-7230, or Donna Murphy, 952-944-2861.

• Moms ROCK: Raising Our Christian Kids

***Simplicity: A Gospel Value* with Father Murtaugh,
Wednesday, February 15, 9:30–11:30am**

Come and join us as Fr. Bill Murtaugh spends the morning with us to help us prepare for the Lenten season. Please take this opportunity to get to know Fr. Murtaugh on a more personal level and hear his wisdom as we enter this special time of the year. Complete details are available on the Pax Christi website, www.paxchristi.com/momsrock.

Questions? Mary Kennedy, Dir. of Stewardship, 952-405-7220

Saturday, February 4

8:30am Marriage Prep Retreat
 9:00am Overeaters Anonymous
 9:00am Weavings Reading Group
 1:30pm 7th/8th Grade FMSC Event
 4:00pm Private Reconciliation
5:00pm MASS - FR. MURTAUGH
 6:00pm New Member Event

Sunday, February 5

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

Monday, February 6

8:30am MASS
 5:00pm Tai Chi
 5:30pm Silent Prayer and Meditation
 7:00pm Legislative Briefing
 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 370
 7:00pm Venturing Crew 370

Tuesday, February 7

8:30am MASS
 9:00am Rosary Group
 9:30am Women Bible Study
 6:00pm 50+ Basketball
 6:30pm Companion Ministry
 6:30pm Twelve Baskets Mtg.
 7:00pm Youth Ministry Training

Wednesday, February 8

9:00am Angel Hour
 11:00am Tai Chi
 4:45pm Good Shepherd I, II
 4:45pm Classroom Program
 4:45pm Middle School Faith Formation
6:00pm MASS
 6:30pm Living Your Strengths
 6:30pm RCIA
 6:45pm Classroom Program
 6:45pm Middle School Faith Formation
 7:00pm Cana Dinner Planning Mtg.

Thursday, February 9

6:45am MASS
 6:00pm Pax Christi Basketball
 6:30pm Gospel of Mark Bible Study
 6:30pm Instrumentalists Rehearsal
 7:00pm Baptism Prep Session
 7:00pm FIT Group Mtg.
 7:00pm Alanon
 7:00pm Alateen
 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous
 7:30pm Singers Rehearsal

Friday, February 10

8:30am MASS

Saturday, February 11

New Member Sign-Up Weekend

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

Sunday, February 12

New Member Sign-Up Weekend
 Greet/Gather/Goodies Weekend
 Environmental Expo Weekend

9:00am MASS - FR. KENNEDY
 9:00am Good Shepherd I
 9:00am Sunday School
 10:45am Good Shepherd I
11:00am MASS - FR. McMICHAEL
 3:30pm Teen Choir Rehearsal
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

READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

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

Readings for the Week of February 5, 2012

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39
 Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Mk 6:53-56
 Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Mk 7:1-13
 Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Mk 7:14-23
 Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Mk 7:24-30
 Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Mk 7:31-37
 Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Mk 8:1-10

Readings for the Week of February 12, 2012

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45
 Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13
 Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21
 Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27/Mk 8:22-26
 Thursday: Jas 2:1-9/Mk 8:27-33
 Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26/Mk 8:34-9:1
 Saturday: Jas 3:1-10 /Mk 9:2-13

Readings for the Week of February 19, 2012

Sunday: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/Mk 2:1-12
 Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Mk 9:14-29
 Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10/Mk 9:30-37
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

Readings for the Week of February 26, 2012

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
 Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

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

Sandy, Martha, Carmen, Scott, Rick, Sue, Patty, Marge, Gene, Bill, Mary Jo, Sandy, Kari, Bruce, Diane, Jeff, John, Jim, 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT WWW.PAXCHRISTI.COM

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Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.

- **5th-8th Grade Youth - Snow Tubing Event!**

Saturday, February 18, 4:30–8:45pm

Come join us for a late afternoon of swooshing down snow covered slopes! We're guaranteeing snow as we head to Elm Creek Park for this annual event. We'll meet in Nazareth Hall for a quick check-in before boarding our buses. The cost is \$20 and includes transportation and tubing. You may bring additional money to purchase snacks, if desired. We will also be collecting donations for our service project for Operation Christmas Child 2012. Suggested donations this month are school supplies such as pencils, pens, crayons, coloring books, story books, etc. (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 Sun. Feb. 5.

Questions? Cindy Novak, Sr. High Youth Minister, 952-405-7214

- **Sign Up for the Cana Dinner**

Saturday, February 18, 6:15–9:30pm

Sign up after Masses THIS weekend, February 4/5, for the annual Pax Christi Cana Dinner. This special celebration of marriage is scheduled for Saturday February 18, 6:15–9:30. Join other Pax Christi couples for a reception, catered dinner, a couple's picture. Childcare in the nursery is included. This year's entertainment features Father Tim Power, Dale O'Brien, and Karen Fogarty singing and musing about love and marriage in the style of their sung homilies of the past. Cost of the dinner is \$55. Pay with a check after Mass or sign up online and pay with a credit card.

Questions? Contact Connie Wesley, 952-405-7217

- **Put Life Back in Your Life!**

Six Week Workshop, Thursdays, February 23 thru March 29, 1:00–3:30pm

Call now to register for a *Living Well with Chronic Conditions* workshop, designed for adults who want to take charge of their ongoing health concerns and get relief from their pain, fatigue, and other symptoms. Cost is \$20 for the *Living a Healthy Life* textbook. There are limited spaces for this workshop. Contact Jane Schmitz to register or to receive more information.

Questions? Jane Schmitz, Dir. of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7238

- **Resource Group for Male Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients**

Next Meeting Thursday, February 23, 1:30–3:00pm

The Alzheimer's Resource Group provides a safe, confidential environment where men can exchange practical information on caregiving challenges, learn about resources available to them, establish connections, learn of the importance of taking care of themselves, and experience a brief respite period in a community of others sharing the same burdens. This group is facilitated and sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. Meetings are held at Pax Christi on the last Thursday of each month.

Questions? Contact Jane Schmitz, Dir. of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7238

- **Moms ROCK: Raising Our Christian Kids**

Game Day, Wednesday, February 29, 9:30–11:30am

Back by popular demand is Game Day! Can the "Returning Champs" be beat, or will they add a third victory to their score card? Join us for a morning of laughs and interactive entertainment. We will be playing a variety of games from trivia, to classic games we played as kids, to popular TV game shows. An important part of being a parent is to set aside time to relax, laugh, and just have fun!

Moms ROCK welcomes all moms, moms-to-be, and anyone else interested in joining us. Gatherings are held twice a month, Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30am, and normally include brunch and relaxing social time followed by uninterrupted time to focus on the day's guest speaker. There is a \$7 fee per gathering. Childcare is included with advanced registration. Complete details are available on the Pax Christi website, www.paxchristi.com/momsrock.

Questions? Mary Kennedy, Dir. of Stewardship, 952-405-7220

- **Mental Health and Spirituality Support Group**

Next Meeting Thursday, March 1, 3:00–4:30pm

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 in Room 221 (Sojourner Truth).

Questions? Contact Jane Schmitz, Dir. of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7238

Ash Wednesday Children's Choir

Let us join together in song as we begin our Lenten journey this Ash Wednesday. New and returning students grades 2-8 welcome! Rehearsals begin Tuesday, January 31, 5:00pm. Please be certain you are able to attend all four Tuesday, 5:00pm rehearsals (January 31, February 7, 14, 21) and the Ash Wednesday 5:00pm Mass on February 22 (4:30 warm up and rehearsal). Please contact Molly Shields, mshields@paxchristi.com, to register. Students new to choir at Pax Christi please include full contact information (email, phone, and mailing address).

Pax Christi Men's Softball

We are looking for anyone who is interested in playing on the Pax Christi Men's Softball team for this summer. The season starts at the end of April and runs until the first part of August; all games are played on Thursday evenings. Please contact Chris Epplert, 952-236-7844, or cpepplett@msn.com.

Attention All Quilters!

Do you know that there is a fabulous group of women who call themselves the Pax Christi Quilters? Every year this group turns out dozens of quilts that are donated to various groups throughout the metro in alignment with Social Justice programs. We meet the first and third Thursday of every month. Our Garden Level quilting studio is open to us from 9:00am-9:00pm on those days. We have room for more members – wouldn't you like to join us? For additional information, please call Becky Jensen, 952-941-2887

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 a 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.

Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast

St. Richard's, Richfield, Sunday, February 19, 9:30am to 1:00pm

There will be great pancakes, Mardi Gras music, and mask-making stations for the children who also participate in a Grand March! But most of all it is a morning of celebrating Mardi Gras with our community. Please visit strichards.com for more information.

Email and Electronic Bulletin Users Wanted

If you would like to receive the eBulletin by email rather than land mail, please contact the parish office, 952-941-3150, or mnault@paxchristi.com. Emailing the bulletin to those who would enjoy receiving it in that format both saves the community money and makes us better stewards of the earth's resources. Contact Melissa Nault, 952-405-7221, if you have additional questions.

Catholic Overnight at St. Thomas

The Department of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas will hold a Catholic Overnight event on Friday, February 17 – Saturday, February 18. High school seniors will have the opportunity to learn about Catholic Studies and the Catholic Women's and Men's Floors, and to experience Catholic community at UST. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Theresa Kutz, 651-962-5704, or trkutz@stthomas.edu. Spaces are limited.

Catholic Charities Counseling Program

Are you going to be entering a second marriage? Are you already in a second marriage and would like to further explore your relationship? Catholic Charities Counseling Program offers a Pre-marriage Seminar for Second Marriages. The next one is offered in St. Paul on Feb. 25 and 26. The cost is \$135 a couple. Contact Adaire Lassonde, 651-647-3126, or adaire.lassonde@cctwincities.org, for further information and a registration form.

Considering a Vocation to be a Permanent Deacon?

These sessions are for single or married men between 30 and 60 years old who want to follow Christ Jesus who came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. They are being held at St. Paul Seminary, Brady Education Center, Room 105. Wives of married inquirers should attend if possible. Questions? Contact Deacon Joseph Michalak, jtmichalak@stthomas.edu

Diaconate Inquiry Sessions:

Thursday, February 16, 6:30-9:00 pm:
Your Basic Questions Answered

Thursdays, February 23 and March 1, 6:30-9:00 pm:
A Closer Look

Saturday, March 10, 8:00-11:30 am:
The Next Steps

ON OUR JOURNEY OF STEWARDSHIP:

DO WHAT YOU DO BEST AND LIVE AS A STEWARD

All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

—1 Corinthians 9: 23

What do you do best? What are you really good at doing? Don't say "nothing" as each of us has been given unique gifts. So again, I ask what do you do better than a lot of other people? It's the skill or talent that comes so naturally; you don't even have to think about it. It's something you cannot NOT do. You might have the ability to easily pick up the words of another language, or maybe you can take a couple of ingredients and whip them into an awesome meal in a matter of moments. Some people are really adept at solving puzzles and find them fun whether at play or work. Others have a talent for coaching others to become better at a particular sport or activity. There are as many talents and skills as there are people, as each of us has been uniquely qualified through our God-given gifts to do something better, or faster, or easier than a lot of others around us. In this weekend's reading, we are encouraged to do what we do best. Why? Face it, nothing is better than the feeling you get of a job well done or when you complete a task knowing that you just hit it out of the park. You get energized and often want to turn around and do it again and soon. You may be exhausted, but if the opportunity to do it again is presented, you know you would step up and participate, without question. So how do we find the thing we do best and capture that feeling?

One way of figuring out what it is that you do best is to participate in one of Pax Christi's Living Your Strengths programs. It's a book and online assessment that defines what your top five strengths are out of 34 strengths that the Gallup Company has identified. Then in a small group setting, participants work together to discern how they can do what they do best in all areas of life. We just started a new class, but give me a call, and I will be happy to contact you when the next class rolls around.


Another way to figure out what you do best is by sharing your time and talent as a volunteer. Give just an hour or two at most to a new opportunity. Think of it as dipping your toe into the water of sharing of yourself by volunteering for a group, activity, or ministry that has always intrigued you. The small amount of time can make a big difference to almost any organization, and if you find that you don't like it, all you have lost is a bit of time. But if you do like it, then you can always offer to do more. There are plenty of opportunities here at Pax Christi as well as in the greater community. Take it from me; no one will force you to keep volunteering, especially if it's not a good fit. But if the time given is in an area of talent of yours, you may just find that you will get much more out of the giving than you had ever imagined.

PAX CHRISTI ANNUAL CANA DINNER

Saturday, February 18, 6:30pm

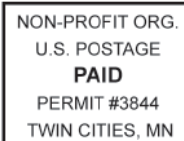
The annual Pax Christi Cana Dinner, celebrating marriage, is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2012. This year you can purchase tickets online with a credit card for just \$55 per couple. Were you ever at Pax Christi for a sung homily? This year's entertainment features the stars of those popular events: Father Tim Power, Dale O'Brien, and Karen Fogarty singing and musing about love and marriage. Childcare and a meal for your child(ren) is included.

**Questions? Contact Connie Wesley,
952-405-7217**

	This Year Actual	This Year Budget	Variance from Budget	Last Year Actual	Variance from Last Year
Week #29 Contributions	63,129	62,000	1,129		
YTD through Week #29	1,610,167	1,512,000	98,167	1,528,038	82,129
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



**Please deliver
by February 4.**

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	
Vicki Klima, 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	Vicki Klima	x211
Director of Faith Formation	Michael Griffin	x230
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

&

THOMAS L. KUHLMAN
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