



**First Sunday of Advent  
December 2, 2007**

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**

Fr. Buersmeyer's weekly column appears on page 6.

**WOULD YOUR FAMILY LIKE TO BRING UP AN ADVENT CANDLE OR BANNER?**

You can sign up on the poster in the hallway to the Activities Center for the Mass of your choice.

**BLESSING OF THE CHRIST CHILD FIGURE FOR YOUR CRECHE**

Bring your figure of the Christ Child which you place in your manger. We will bless the figure at the Masses on December 22 & 23. See page 2.

**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB**

See what's "New and Noteworthy", read past issues of our bulletin, find links to other sites. Go online and see for yourself—[www.ssjohnandpaul.org](http://www.ssjohnandpaul.org). Please visit our website weekly to keep abreast of what's new and noteworthy.

# Welcome MCREST Guests

*Please join together with other churches in our community for...*

**An Evening of Advent Prayer  
Sunday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m.  
At SS. John & Paul Parish**



**...A time to quietly reflect on the miracle of Christmas in scripture, prayer and song**



**Communal Penance and  
Celebration of the Sacrament  
Of First Reconciliation**

**Tuesday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Please Help!  
Wednesday, December 19  
Between 6-9 p.m.**

We have 8 pre-lit trees to be placed on the altar and assembled in preparation for our Christmas celebration. We are looking for a total of 16 people (2 people per 1 tree). If you can come and help assemble 1 tree that would be a tremendous help.



**Here's what's  
happening  
this week!**

**Monday, December 10:**

\*7:00 p.m. Mass  
\*7:45 p.m. Adult Bells

**Tuesday, December 11:**

\*9:00 a.m. Mass

**Wednesday, December 12:**

\*9:00 a.m. Mass  
\*7:00 p.m. Prayer Service with  
MCREST guests  
\*7:30 p.m. Cantors

**Thursday, December 13:**

\*7:00 p.m. Adult Choir

**Saturday, December 15:**

\*3:00 p.m. Confessions  
\*3:30 p.m. Teen Bells

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**Regular Parish Office Hours**

Mon. - Wed. — 9 :00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Thursday — 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday—12:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday — 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



**Baptism**

Congratulations to Michael Thomas Miller baptized on December 9, 2007. Welcome to our parish family!

**From the Music Desk . . .**

**◆ A "Change" for Advent**

For the Advent Season this year, the Adult Bell Choir will be rotating through several of the Masses, playing bells for the prelude as well as for the Advent Processional. The prelude this year is an arrangement of the Twelfth Century hymn "Of the Father; 's Love Begotten," which is #510 in our hymnal. The style of the composition is based on the practice of English "Change Ringing," where the bells of church towers are rung in a mathematical pattern for extended periods of time, with subtly changing variations. As you listen to this piece, you will be able to visualize the great tower bells pealing and tolling in various patterns.

The Bell Choir attended a concert last month by the Detroit Handbell Ensemble at which this piece was featured. We are fortunate indeed to have such a dedicated and talented group of ringers to enrich the music of our liturgy, musicians who are able and willing to tackle music of this high a level. Adult Bells will also play for the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

**◆ A Request for your Multilingual Assistance**

This year, for the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, we are preparing a multilingual arrangement of the familiar carol "Silent Night." It is our plan to begin in English, and then to have verses sung in a variety of languages, with instrumental interludes between the verses. Such a presentation will send a powerful message of the importance of Christ's birth to all times and places, as well as the universal nature of our Catholic Church.

We would like to include verses in Polish, Italian, Spanish, German and Latin, but would welcome verses in additional languages. Please consider using your musical talent and ethnic heritage for the enrichment of our Christmas liturgy this year. I would sincerely encourage you to contact me, Al Eppens, at the church (586.781.9010) to volunteer or to suggest someone whom you think might be able to help. Thank you for your assistance.



**Blessing of the Christ Child Figure From  
Your Home Christmas Creche —  
December 22 or 23**

The "domestic Church"—how we are God's people in our homes and daily lives—is intimately connected to the parish Church. We would like to strengthen that connection for the season of Christmas by starting the custom of blessing parish member's home/family Christ child figure, which you place in the manger scene by your Christmas tree.

Bring that figure to any Mass on the last Sunday of Advent (Saturday, December 22 or Sunday, December 23) and we will have a special blessing at each Mass for that figure and for your home manger scene.

**A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar**

Jesus reminds parents to "produce good fruit" by "preparing the way of the Lord." Parents are a "voice crying out" in a society which barely acknowledges God. Christian parenting requires a strong voice. Your voice must be heard above the din of a consumer culture.

**2007-2008  
Religious  
Formation  
Program  
September — May**

**G.R.A.C.E.**  
Parish Formation Program  
For All ages

**NO G.R.A.C.E. in December**  
**Next Session:** January 6, 8, 9, 11  
6:00-8:30 p.m.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
3-1/2 to 5 yrs. old  
Sunday 9:30 a.m.  
Dec. 23

For information on either program  
above, or for any other adult  
formation or preparation for  
sacraments, please call the  
Formation Office 586.781.9488



**Christmas  
Day**

**11:30 a.m. Children's Mass**

Come and join us in this simple,  
but beautiful joy-filled celebra-  
tion. Along with the children's  
choir and hand bells, all children  
in attendance will have the oppor-  
tunity to take part in the sponta-  
neous Christmas pageant during  
the reading of the Gospel. It is  
truly a wonderful way to begin  
Christmas Day.



**Celebration of the  
Sacrament Of First  
Reconciliation**

**Tuesday, December 18  
at 7:00 p.m.**

For all children and their families  
who have prepared to receive this  
sacrament for the first time. You  
are invited to join the parish  
community in the celebration of  
Reconciliation on either of these  
dates.

**G  
R  
A  
C  
E**

**JANUARY 6, 8, 9, 11  
6:00-8:30 p.m.**

*Catechetical Area:*  
**Identifying with  
Catholic Tradition  
(Church History  
and Vatican II)**

*Specific Theme:*  
**The Gift of Authority**

*Connecting the theme  
to an event:*  
**Feast of the  
Baptism of Jesus**

**If you are an adult without  
children you may register at  
ANY time for ANY month.**

Our parish formation program is  
for ALL ages. If you are a new  
member of the parish—call the  
Religious Formation office for  
more information. If you haven't  
registered yet, forms can be  
found in the literature racks in the  
hallway just outside the Parish  
Office.

**HELP!**



**WE NEED SOME  
CHRISTMAS  
DECORATING  
HELP ON:**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23  
at 12:30 p.m.  
(after the 11:30 a.m. Mass)**

**Can you give 1 hr.  
of your time?**

We will need help on Sunday to  
finish decorating the Church for  
Christmas. If you can give us a  
hand on this day we would  
greatly appreciate it.

**Please see the  
sign-up sheet  
in the hallway.**



**Presentation of First Eucharist Candidates  
This weekend—December 9 at  
9:30 / 11:30 a.m. Masses**

The following children who are preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist  
are presented to the community for recognition, support and prayers as they receive  
their 'gold book'. Please be sure to take a name and pray for one of these children  
over the next few months of their preparation. Names can be found on slips of paper in  
a basket at the entrances.

Katrina Adams, Katelyn Auguliaro, Michael Auguliaro, Evan Bassy, Nicholas  
Behring, Michael Berger, Dario Bollini, Emerson Brown, Adam Dix, Kelly Foster,  
Mya Fregoli, Alexa Gabler, Kaitlyn Geer, Jacob Gillespie, Joshua Gillespie, Danielle  
Godin, Mackenzie Henion, Nicole Jandreski, Carinne Jarvis, Paige Kopczyk, Matthew  
Kusluski, Leonardo Lavdas, Alec Lindecker, Julia Luttig, Ali Mangiapane, Marina  
Marinkovski, Anna Meldrum, Alivia Miller, Matthew Miller, Matthew Mueller,  
Charlee Murray, Gabrielle Purpura, Chris Quenneville, Alyssa Radtke, Jessica Roland,  
Nicholas Sienkiewicz, Tyler Sienkiewicz, Adam Skelly, Jarrett St. John, Jacob  
Sunderlik, Emilio Tan, Henry Theodoroff, Sarina Trombley, Adam Trzeciakiewicz,  
Alexander Tyshka, Allie Valitutti, Samantha Wilkins, Emma Zanlungo



## Stewardship Commission Meeting Highlights— November 20, 2007

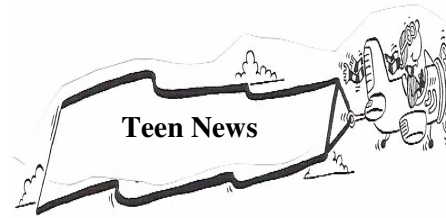
- ◆ After interviewing five architectural firms that were recommended by the Archdiocese, the committee selected Integrated Design Solutions (IDS) as the architect for the Multi-Purpose Building. The first meeting with the committee and IDS is scheduled for mid-December.
- ◆ The Archdiocese announced that beginning in 2008, audits will be done at each parish once every three years. The Budget Committee will begin a limited scope review of the parish financial and office procedures twice a year, starting in 2008.
- ◆ Effective January 1, 2008, all parishes in the Archdiocese will change legal status from "corporation sole" to "separately incorporated".
- ◆ A new committee has been formed: Stewardship Education. The purpose of this committee is to educate the parish on all aspects of Stewardship. A stewardship logo was created.
- ◆ Approximately 300' x 30' of brush behind the Parish Center will be cleared before the picnic.

## Calling All Men

SS. John & Paul Parish would like to start a Men's Club. Its purpose is to socialize, play cards, games, etc. This club would meet monthly.

The first meeting will be on Tuesday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Activities Center.

If you are interested, please join us for this meeting. If you are unable to attend but would still like to join, just call the parish office at 781.9010 and leave your name and phone number.



### ◆ Thanks For Your Support

Thank you to all those who bought a poinsettia in support of the teens. Everyone was so generous that we ran out of poinsettias at the 11:30 mass. We will make sure our numbers are up for next year. Once again thank you for your wonderful support.

Mrs. Peters & The Teens

### ◆ Fun-N Games Night for Grades 9-12

**Thursday, December 20 from 7:00-10:00 p.m.**

Please bring your fun board games, a friend and join us for a fun-filled evening with guaranteed lots of laughs. We will even have "holiday cookies" and snacks. Permission slips are available in the office. Please call Mrs. Peters at 586.781.9488 if you have any questions.

### ◆ Attention all 9-12 Graders

**RAINBOW — February 23, 2008**

Packets are available now in the office. Early bird special has expired, but you can still sign up for an additional \$20. All paperwork has to be in the office by December 15. Any questions or concerns, call Mrs. Peters 586.781.9488.

### ◆ Attention 2007-08 Seniors

SS. John & Paul has been asked to pass along information regarding the James F. and Virginia M. Coughlin Scholarship Fund. This fund will provide one or more scholarships of at least \$1500.00 to High School Seniors who have commitment to youth service. If you would like more information regarding this scholarship fund please pick up a packet from the Parish Office. All applications must be postmarked by February 28th.

### ◆ Grade 7-8 Christmas Event December 20 — 7:00-10:00 p.m.

We invite all the 7th & 8th graders to join us for a Christmas Event that will help those in need and also give you lots of laughs. A suggestion was made to have the teens make tie blankets for the homeless, or AIDS patients. We would ask that each person donate 2 yards washed fleece fabric. We will enjoy holiday music, and each others company as we come together to make the blankets for the first hour. After that we will enjoy games, laughter and holiday cookies. If you would like to help or participate in this event, please give Mrs. Peters a call at 586-781-9488.

## Widowed Men's Breakfast/Fellowship

Widowed men of all ages are invited to meet for breakfast at the Big Boy Restaurant at 18 Mile and Dequindre in Troy at 9:00 a.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month. This is an informal group where other men who have experienced the loss of a spouse are supportive and ready to help you cope or to get involved in a variety of social or spiritual activities offered by *Widowed Friends*. Call Ray at 248.585.5402.



## SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

Thanks to everyone who participated and donated food in October. Once again, the soup kitchen volunteers outdid themselves. We served a delicious spaghetti lunch.

Our next meal will be served on Tuesday, December 18, 2007. We will serve a spaghetti lunch with salad and fresh fruit. **Donated items should be delivered to the parish kitchen no earlier than Sunday, December 16th. Please mark your bags SOUP KITCHEN.** Please call Pat Sagert (586.781.7035) or Barbara Jarzemski (586.336.1450) to see what is needed.

The Soup Kitchen team meets at 8:30 a.m. SHARP the day of the lunch at SS. John & Paul and leaves via carpool to the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen at 8:45 a.m. God bless you for your continued generosity.

## Blood Drive Results

The last American Red Cross blood drive held here at SS. John & Paul took place on November 19th. The Red Cross nurses were able to collect a total of 46 units of blood. That's enough blood to potentially save the lives of 138 people in our local hospitals. Thank you so much to all who took the time during their busy schedules to donate or attempt to donate.

Many thanks to Mary Adkins, our coordinator/meal preparer and Pat Sagert who made her famous soup kitchen pasta sauce. The delicious dinner was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to all our homemade cookie bakers, Rosemary Gaglio, Jennifer Loeb, Kay Kearney, Dawn Bernia and Cathy and Olivia Radtke. Your cookies made the trip here even more worthwhile!

Lastly, thanks to our own Red Cross volunteers, Monica Payne, Eddie Ghidoli and Diane Sprengel who always make the day a pleasure for us all.



## Matters!

### Our host week is here!!

#### Just a few items to share about this week:

All choir activities and daily masses will remain unchanged. We do ask that when attending practice or mass, please use the EAST church doors. All MCREST volunteers have been asked to use this door to enter as well. The WEST doors will be used for our MCREST guests. Signs will be posted for your convenience. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Hold on to Health During the Holidays — Part 1

Here are some tips for a happy and healthy holiday season:

- **Check your to-do list** for calorie burning activities. One hour of putting up a Christmas tree can burn about 150 calories, as can one hour of trekking the malls for presents. One hour of wrapping those gifts can eliminate 102 calories. But don't assume ordinary holiday activities will burn up the ordinary holiday feast: An average slice of pecan pie is 500 calories, i.e., five hours of wrapping.
- **Laugh well, laugh often.** Not only is laughter a great stress reliever, it burns calories. Researchers at Vanderbilt University recently found that 10-15 minutes of genuine laughter a day can burn an additional 10—40 calories. Over the course of a week, that's up to 300 calories!
- **Forget the food, remember the people.** The biggest reason you're at a party is the people you might only see at this time of the year, so focus on them, not the buffet table.
- **In high risk situations, chew gum.** "After all, you have to take gum out in order to eat", noted Cathy Nonas, director of the diabetes and obesity programs at North General Hospital in New York City and author of *Outwit Your Weight*.
- **Don't eat before, during and after a party.** Just pick one time frame and stick to it.
- **Switch hands.** If you're a right-handed person, hold your drink in your right hand. When you reach for food with your left, it will feel awkward and make you think twice.
- **Sit pretty.** If you're at a sit-down meal, keep your chair slightly away from the table. Also, be the last to start eating and drink water to slow you down (one glass before you start noshing and one glass halfway through).
- **Avoid fatty food—and a heart attack.** Dr. Michael Kim, director of the Coronary Care Unit at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in NYC says, "If you eat a very large, fatty meal, you're much more prone to having a heart attack. This is an immediate risk, not a long-term possibility. Fatty food can trigger dangerous changes to blood vessels right after eating." Not only are heart attacks more common during the holidays, they are also deadlier, research indicates.

Source: <http://news.healingwell.com>

Anne Petriches, RN

## Pastor's Perspective

### \*Hosting Our Guests for M.C.R.E.S.T.

As we enter into this week of hosting for M.C.R.E.S.T. (Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team) I want to thank our coordinator for this endeavor, Mimi Gendreau. She has spent over a year helping us prepare for this week. Without her oversight and hard work, we would not have gotten to this point.

I also want to thank all the volunteers who have stepped forward as captains of various committees and workers within those committees. What an awesome response of time and energy to make this possible. Over 300 people will be helping throughout this week to make sure that our guests are welcomed, fed, have what they need, and are well-cared for. Thank you.

Please pray for our guests and their families as well as the volunteers throughout this week. We might not have the greatest facilities to make this happen, but we have the best of people.

### \*Second Sunday of Advent

Our readings for this second Sunday of Advent continue to focus on hope, one of the pre-eminent "Advent virtues." The first reading from Isaiah, at a time of great turmoil in the northern kingdom of Israel, prophesies the coming of a messiah-like figure in the line of David. A new David, a new king, but this time one who will judge rightly, someone who will be the bearer of the very spirit of God, in whom those who were enemies will be able to be reconciled.

Christians very early on read this prophecy from Isaiah in light of the event of Jesus Christ and applied it to him. But in so doing they also saw pretty quickly how it was not yet fully accomplished on earth. So Christian hope took on an "already" present but "not yet fully here" aspect. The kingdom of God is breaking in here and now and we are to look for it and be sign of its in-breaking. But it is not yet fully here and so we await the fullness of that

kingdom, a second coming (called the *Parousia* in Greek) of Christ when all will be fulfilled.

By placing ourselves within this "already" but "not yet" reality Christian hope always has qualities of both. We have a firm conviction that what needs to be accomplished will be accomplished because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. On the basis of that hope we live in faith. We live by certain convictions, practices, and moral principles. We might not be rewarded in this life for doing so—in fact, we might even suffer for those convictions—but we have a hope that grounds us and sustains us.

At the same time, we have a desire for the fullness of that hope to be realized. We desire peace in this world truly, not just little signs of it. We desire that material goods feed all and care for all, not just potentially but truly. We desire that every human person's dignity is respected from the moment of life to natural death, not just theoretically but in practice. That desire creates an Advent prayer—an Advent cry, really—"Come, Lord Jesus! We need you. The world needs you. Come, Lord Jesus!"

The gospel reading further shapes this Christian hope of ours. In the figure of John the Baptizer we are confronted with the challenge that our hope not be rooted in a fear, in a worry that we be saved. Rather, it is to be grounded in a transformed life, one that the messiah will bring, a transforming fire and spirit that will truly change our lives. Christian hope is not hope for salvation and then standing back and doing nothing. Christian hope is hope for salvation and then living our life differently on the basis of that hope.

What do we hope for? Health for those we love? Ability to love and be relationships? Freedom to be creative and productive? Peace in this world among nations? Christian hope looks at all those things and reminds us: then live life as though such things were a reality. And when you face disappointment or even suffering in pursuing such hope, do not falter, for the Lord is coming with his strength and power to sustain you.

Advent is a wonderfully deep, meditative season. Take the time to light the Advent candles and pray. Take the time to step back and reflect. Use those little blue books and their five minute daily meditations. Come and join us next Sunday at 5:00 PM for a time of Advent Prayer, Hymns and Meditations. If we allow Advent to shape us, then we can truly celebrate Christmas.

### \*Pope Benedict's Encyclical on Hope

Pope Benedict XVI issued a new teaching letter last week on Christian hope. His first was on love, this second one is on the theological virtue of hope. There is a link to it on our parish website, so you can read it in full. Although it is a very scholarly look at Christian hope, for those who are able to make their way through it, it is filled with great insights. It is titled "*Spe Salvi*" which comes from the Latin translation of Paul's Letter to the Romans 8:24 where he says "in hope we were saved." The pope asks how is it possible to be saved by hope, since hope means that something isn't yet fully here. The pope says: "*Here too we see as a distinguishing mark of Christians the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness.*" With that hope in an absolute future in God, we know that no present circumstances ever have the final word in our lives.

That allows the pope to draw out two lines of implications. The first is that no matter how difficult, hard, filled with suffering, and bleak our lives are on this earth, we are never without hope and no such circumstances have final power over us. In that precise sense we are saved in and by hope. In that context he recounts the life of an 19<sup>th</sup> c. African woman, more recently canonized by Pope John Paul II, St. Josephine Bakhita. Her life was marked by immense suffering and destitution, beginning in slavery and physical punishment, and yet in the end more deeply marked by hope, when she learned and knew for a certainty that there was a God who loved her, who himself became human and experience such suffering.

Secondly, the pope spends some effort on trying to show that no human structure, no matter how seemingly just, is ever able to be sufficient for human hope. In the end all such structures, even if more justly ordered than previous ones, are incapable of guaranteeing true human freedom and progress. All such structures can be distorted toward unethical, sinful ends. Therefore, Christian hope needs to look beyond such human endeavors toward an eternal, absolute hope in God. Without knowing the true God, says the pope, there is no real hope.

As mentioned, it is not an easy read, but there is a lot of good reflection material here. He brings out how the modern world's idea of progress became distorted into a 'this-worldly' kingdom, as though we no longer need to hope for the kingdom of God. He attempts to show how a purely individualistic understanding of salvation is inadequate and is itself a product of the modern world. I think these are accurate and important insights. If I had two areas of question or hesitation it was these. It seems to me he might undervalue the laborious but inspiring work of so many who give/gave their lives for the transformation of structures within this world, many of whom have not been Christians. Secondly, though he emphasizes how Christian hope for salvation is not individualistic and that Christians must examine their own role in how this has become misunderstood, I'm not sure he dwells enough on the specific Catholic tendencies to distort salvation into an individualistic experience, beginning with an often highly-individualistic notion of what it means to celebrate Eucharist and receive communion.

But in the end, the encyclical is an inspiring meditation on the need for humanity to acknowledge God, if we are to truly ground our human hope in something more than our own abilities.

#### \*The Elijah Cup

The Vocation Awareness Committee of the parish will be asking parish households to accept "The Elijah Cup" into their homes and use it as a

symbol to pray that everyone see and find a way to live their lives as a vocation from God, including that men and women be open to vocations in serving the Church.

What is an "Elijah Cup"? It is a chalice, used at Mass that is passed on to a family/household for one week, along with a suggested prayer and a journal. During the week, the family/individual places the cup in a visible place of honor (center of the table, on a visible credenza) and takes time to pray for vocations. During the week they are also encouraged to reflect on certain questions and write down a paragraph or two in the journal in light of those reflections. They then bring the cup back to church the following weekend and it is brought up with the bread and wine and used at that Mass. The cup and journal and prayer are then passed on to another household for use during the following week.

The cup is a chalice, used for Eucharist alone. It is not a cup the family uses to drink out of. Rather, it is a cup that reminds us that what we do at Eucharist is to live out our baptismal call—our vocation—in Christ. The Vocation Committee hopes that this cup will be in continual use over a period of several years and that many, many parish households will accept it for a week as a way to focus on vocations of all sorts.

We will have a sign up for possible receivers of the cup at our January G.R.A.C.E. sessions, as well as after Masses in January. We will "inaugurate" the cup at one of the Masses on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 13<sup>th</sup>), to focus on the core reality of all Christian vocational life: we are called in baptism to live our Christian lives in intentionally Christ-centered ways. No matter what we do in life, it can become a vocation, whenever we find a way to consciously and intentionally connect it to living out our baptism.

May this Advent season deepen our longing for Christ, inspire us to hope, and keep us steadfast in faith.

Fr. Buersmeyer



## Prayer for the Second Week of Advent

God of power and mercy,  
open our hearts in welcome.  
Remove the things that hinder us  
from receiving Christ with joy  
so that we may share his wisdom  
and become one with him when  
he comes in glory, for he lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

## Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve Monday, December 24

Mass at 5 p.m.  
(not a children's Mass)  
Mass at 12 midnight  
(Choir carols prior to midnight)

### Christmas Day Tuesday, December 25

Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.  
and 11:30 a.m.  
NB: The Christmas children's  
Mass is at 11:30 a.m.

### Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Mass at 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, December 31  
and 9:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, January 1

### Making a Charitable Gift through an IRA Charitable Rollover

*Helpful Tips on how you can realize Tax Benefits by Making a Direct Charitable Distribution from your IRA*

If you are over the age of 70 1/2, you must take a required minimum distribution from your IRA. Normally, this money is taxed as ordinary income. However recent federal legislation permits you, for the remainder of 2007, to make a direct gift from your IRA to the parish, the Catholic Services Appeal (C.S.A.), or other qualified charity. This gift counts toward fulfilling your required minimum distribution.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 has a two year provision that allows you to exclude up to \$100,000 from your gross income in 2006 and 2007 for distributions made directly from your traditional IRA to a qualified charity.

The distribution must be from your IRA, not a 401(K) or other retirement plan. Also, the IRA distribution must be a direct charitable gift and not a distribution to a donor-advised fund, a charitable remainder trust or for a charitable gift annuity.

If you would like to take advantage of these income tax savings and support the parish, please review the following tips on how to handle your charitable gift correctly:

- ◆ Contact your IRA custodian or representative **before** making a gift to arrange for the proper transfer of funds from your IRA to the qualified charity. The check that is issued from the IRA must show that it is made *payable* to the charity.
- ◆ Remember that gifts can be made up to \$100,000 per year in 2007. For married couples, *each* spouse can make a distribution from his or her IRA under the same provisions.
- ◆ While this topic is fresh in your mind, ask your attorney and financial advisor how to make the parish a beneficiary of your will, trust or IRA.

For more information about the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and how you can benefit from a charitable IRA rollover, please contact the parish office at 781.9010.

*These helpful tips are only for your information on this change in the IRA law and are not to be considered as legal, tax or financial advice. You should consult with your legal, tax and financial advisors to implement the benefits of this new law and related matters.*

### Pray for our sick

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Angelosante   | Karen Mehlick      |
| Rita Bayer         | Trudy Mehlick      |
| Suzanne Bawol      | Adele Miller       |
| Mary Burcar        | Jean (Roman)Noga   |
| Bill Cauley        | Larry Newsom       |
| Ralph Cleary       | Denise Olejniczak  |
| Chris Del Pappa    | Leo Osantoske, Sr. |
| Lauren DeNio       | John Pakledinaz    |
| Art Donovan        | Carl Pallas        |
| Antoinette Errante | Alex Polzin        |
| Alojzy Filipowicz  | Dorothy Puffpaff   |
| Mark Formanczyk    | Marie Richard      |
| Jack Gehrholz      | Hank Roman         |
| Krystyna Green     | Theresa Romero     |
| Lora Hardin        | Mary Ruppert       |
| Veronica Hartley   | Albert Sabbe       |
| Ruth Hunsucker     | Jeff Simpson       |
| Janet Johnson      | Camille Smith      |
| Yolanda Kaufman    | Michelle Smith     |
| John Kerr          | Tommasina Smith    |
| Hayden Kroll       | Cecelia Smith      |
| John LaCroix       | Mary Sorrow        |
| Mrs. Fred LaRose   | Steven St. John    |
| Vito Loconte       | Betty Staller      |
| Jacob Main         | Ken Stempien       |
| Bernice Mayer      | Barbara Supina     |
| Antoinette McBain  | Richard Waluk      |
| Agnes Mehlick      | Betty Waligore     |

### Pray for our military



- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Noel & Greg Ales   | Chris Krusinski    |
| Nick Bassett       | Paul McGowan       |
| David Benn         | David Newberry     |
| Augie Biache III   | Ryan Ribant        |
| Mike Boback        | Thomas Schmidt     |
| Eric Eppens        | Chris Staniszewski |
| Tony Gentilia      | Vincent Titeriga   |
| Michael Kaminski   | Daniel Trendell    |
| David Krzycki      |                    |
| Jonathon Krusinski |                    |

**Stewardship**

**T**ime  
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**December 1-2, 2007**

**Weekly budget .....\$11,600.00**  
 Offertory ..... \$10,640.25  
 No. Sunday envelopes used.....311  
**Total offertory .....\$10,640.25**

**Other Monies / (# Envelopes)**  
 Capital Imprv. / (25).....\$680.00  
 Children's Env. / (8).....\$6.41

How will we celebrate this Advent?  
 How will we spend our time and energy? Will we spend more time in prayer? This Advent, may our time of waiting be filled with the selfless giving to others that is the trademark of good stewardship.

**Readings for the Week of December 9, 2007**

**Sunday, December 9:**  
 Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

**Monday, December 10:**  
 Is 35:1-20; Ps 85, Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday, December 11:**  
 Is 40:1-11; Ps 96; Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday, December 12:**  
 Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 103; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**Thursday, December 13:**  
 Is 41:13-20; Ps 145; Mt 11:11-15

**Friday, December 14:**  
 Is 48:17-19; Ps 1; Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday, December 15:**  
 Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Sunday, December 16:**  
 Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**Sponsor of the Week**

Sheena's Marketplace



## Eucharistic Prayer Requests

### Saturday and Sunday December 8-9, 2007

Gerald Hatcher by Wife  
 Clemente Truden by A. Truden  
 Pauline Otto by P. Otto Family  
 Geri Dale by Family  
 Thomas Hunsucker by Falahee Family

### Monday, December 10, 2007

Mary & Bernie Balicki by Family

### Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Toni Dutchik by T. Klakulak Family

### Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Magdalen Kelly by Pospiech Family  
 Anna & John Szopjak by  
 Hondzinski Family

### Saturday and Sunday December 15-16, 2007

Jay Nelson by Family  
 Frank Martino by Martino Family  
 Dorothy Cronenwett by Family  
 Vivette Clark by M. Dale Family  
 Rose Killewald by Family

<b>Liturgical appointments for December 15-16, 2007</b>				
Mass	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Buersmeyer	Fr. Buersmeyer	Fr. Buersmeyer	Fr. Sayes
<b>Lectors</b>	G. Pagliarella N. Peters	J. Resutek J. Giffin	J. Golochowicz P. Quayhackx	M. Catalano S. Sabath
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>  <b>*Captain</b>	A. Peters* D. Peters D. Peters K. Peters F. Diebboll	M. Sobetski* P. Sagert R. Sagert W. Zotter A. Zotter	T. Fletcher* A. Murray J. Sabina J. Sabina B. Quayhackx C. Seidel R. Seidel	S. Brunet* C. Gregory L. Hester J. Schnepf S. Catalano
<b>Altar Servers</b>	T. Culver F. Theodoroff	—Open—	O. Cali A. Kaniuk	N. Delcourt J. Yankee
<b>Greeters</b>	C. Hatcher L. Horn	S. Cratsenburg D. Goldun	D. Bernia D. Miller	M. Hosking N. Hosking
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Team #2</b> M. LaRaia M. Hendershot J. Krieg M. Macha	<b>Team #4</b> R. Giffin K. Grunewald B. Huellmantel H. Susalla	<b>Team #6</b> B. Burcar B. Cammarata J. Pospiech B. Schulz J. Gerds	<b>Team #8</b> L. LePage C. Klavec R. Kopera J. Kretchman K. McBride J. Pyke D. Waligore
<b>Collection Counters</b>	Sharon Bourgeois, Mike Adkins, Donald Byrne, Len & Jacqueline Monfils, Dick & Pat Podolski			