

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**

Fr. Buersmeyer's article, *Pastor's Perspective*, appears on page 6.

**RECONNECT**

Our next Reconnect session on Wednesday, January 4. See page 4.

**BROWN BAG FOOD DRIVE**

Return bags of food Next Weekend.

**EPHIPHANY DVD PRESENTATION**

January 8, following 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Mass See page 2.

**REGISTRATION WEEKEND**

January 14 and 15. See page 2.

**BOOK REVIEW**

The Waiting Place by Eileen Button.  
January 18 at 6:30 p.m.  
See page 4.

**WISDOM BYTES**

Do we all pray to the same God?  
January 29 at 10:30 a.m. and repeated  
January 30 at 7:45 p.m.  
See page 2.

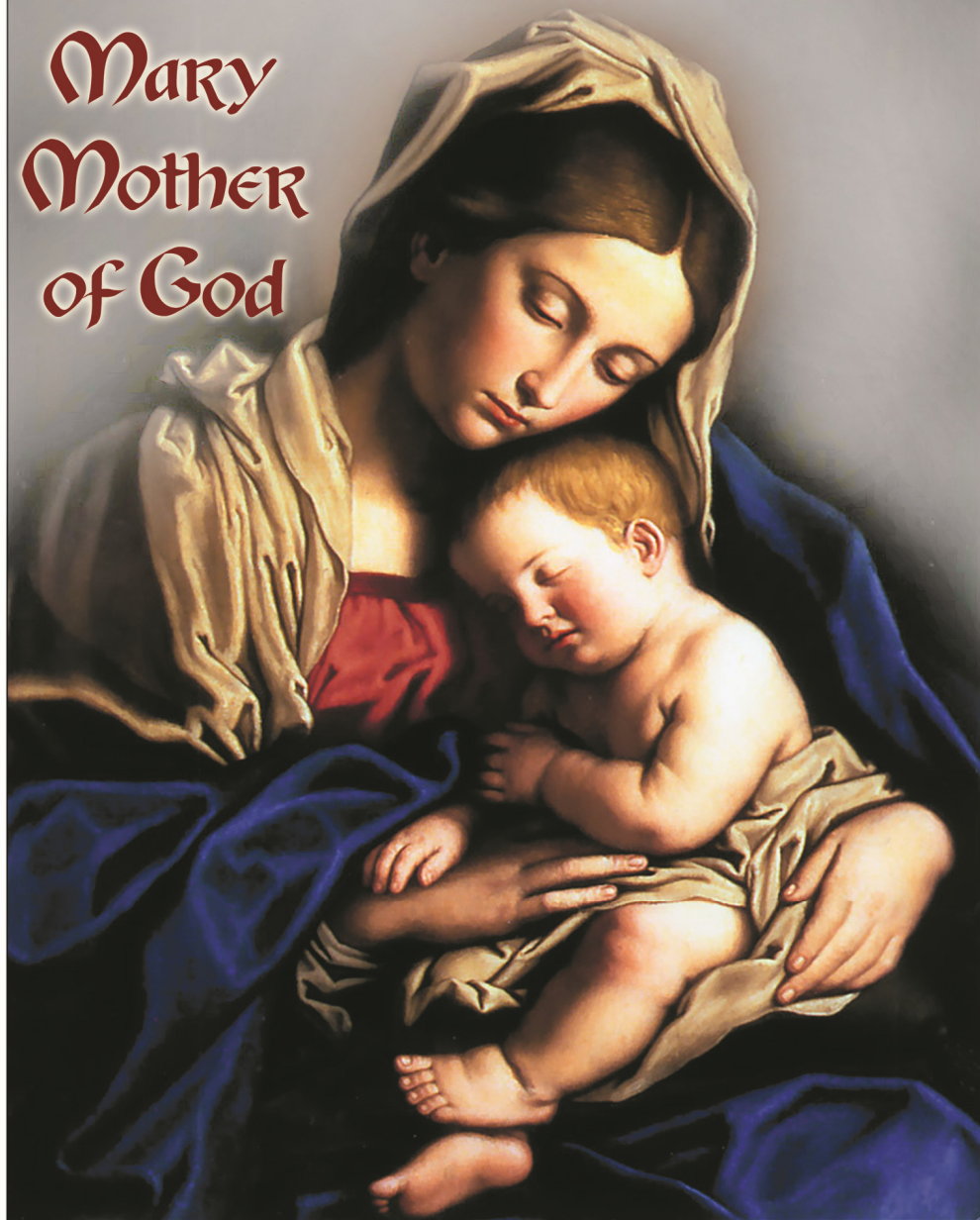
**NORTH MACOMB VICARIATE:  
WELCOME HOME CATHOLICS**

Welcoming back those who have been away. See page 4.

**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.

# Mary Mother of God



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

### Monday, January 2:

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

### Tuesday, January 3:

- \*9:00 a.m. Mass
- \*5:00 p.m. Junior Choir and Bells
- \*7:00 p.m. Age-Specific Lesson Planning

### Wednesday, January 4:

- \*9:00 a.m. Mass
- \*9:30 a.m. Art and Environment
- \*7:00 p.m. Reconnect

### Thursday, January 5:

- \*9:30 a.m. Women's Reflection
- \*7:00 p.m. Adult Choir.

### Saturday, January 7:

- \*1:00 p.m. Special Needs
- \*5:00 p.m. Mass

\* \* \* \* \*

### 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 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
 Sunday — 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



## Wisdom Bytes

### Do We All Pray To The Same God?

Is the Christian God the same as the God (or gods) of other believers? Does the Catholic Church recognize the understanding of divinity in other faith traditions? How do we pray together when our experience of God differs?

Sunday, January 29, after 9:30 a.m. mass; repeated on Monday, January 30, after 7:00 p.m. mass

Presented by Fr. David Buersmeyer  
 Wisdom Bytes usually last from 35-45 minutes. Questions? Call 586-781-9010.

Or go to our parish website  
[www.ssjohnandpaul.org](http://www.ssjohnandpaul.org)

## Celebrate Epiphany Sunday, January 8 With a Nativity DVD Presentation



After 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Mass

Grab some coffee and donuts and come join us in Social Hall C for a 30 minute DVD titled "Nativity, The Art and Spirit Of The Creche"

After the cross, the Nativity scene is Christianity's most recognized symbol. Its history, art and spirituality have been embraced by cultures around the world for nearly two thousand years. This program unites theologians and collectors with an astonishing and beautiful array of nativity scenes collected from across the globe.

~ from DVD back cover

## Registration Weekend At Our Parish



Saturday and Sunday, January 14 and 15 After all Masses

When registering you will receive a welcome packet containing important information about our parish, including our G.R.A.C.E. program. Members of our hospitality/evangelization committee will be available to help answer any questions.



## Welcome To All Who Enter Our Doors This Christmas Season



We delight in seeing and greeting everyone during this joyous Christmas Season. To those of you who have been unable to be part of this community recently for whatever reason, we are happy that you have chosen to celebrate with us.

We are hosting a parish registration weekend on January 14 and 15 after all masses. If you have missed being part of a community who worships, socializes, and serves together, you are invited to join us. Maybe you have some questions about the Catholic Church or are interested in becoming Catholic, we want to meet you. Perhaps you have left church because of issues that made it hard for you to remain in community, we want to help you address your concerns. Members of the Hospitality Committee will be available to talk to you about our programs and opportunities.

*Please read the bulletin for other great programs happening soon:*

- \* "Reconnect" evening on Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m., here at SSJP
- \* Potluck and Game Night, Friday, January 20, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
- \* Wisdom Byte session "Do We Pray To The Same God?" Sunday, January 29 at 10:30 a.m. and Monday, January 30 at 7:45 p.m.
- \* Mass with Anointing of the Sick, Monday January 30, at 7:00 p.m.

*"Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you."  
 Romans 16:16*

## Catechists Needed

We are in great need of several people who would be willing to be catechists in our Programs. This commitment is for a total of 4 sessions. The dates for the age specific sessions are Jan 30/31, February 5/6, February 20/21 and March 5/6 Please call Kathryn at 586-781-9488 for more information or to volunteer.

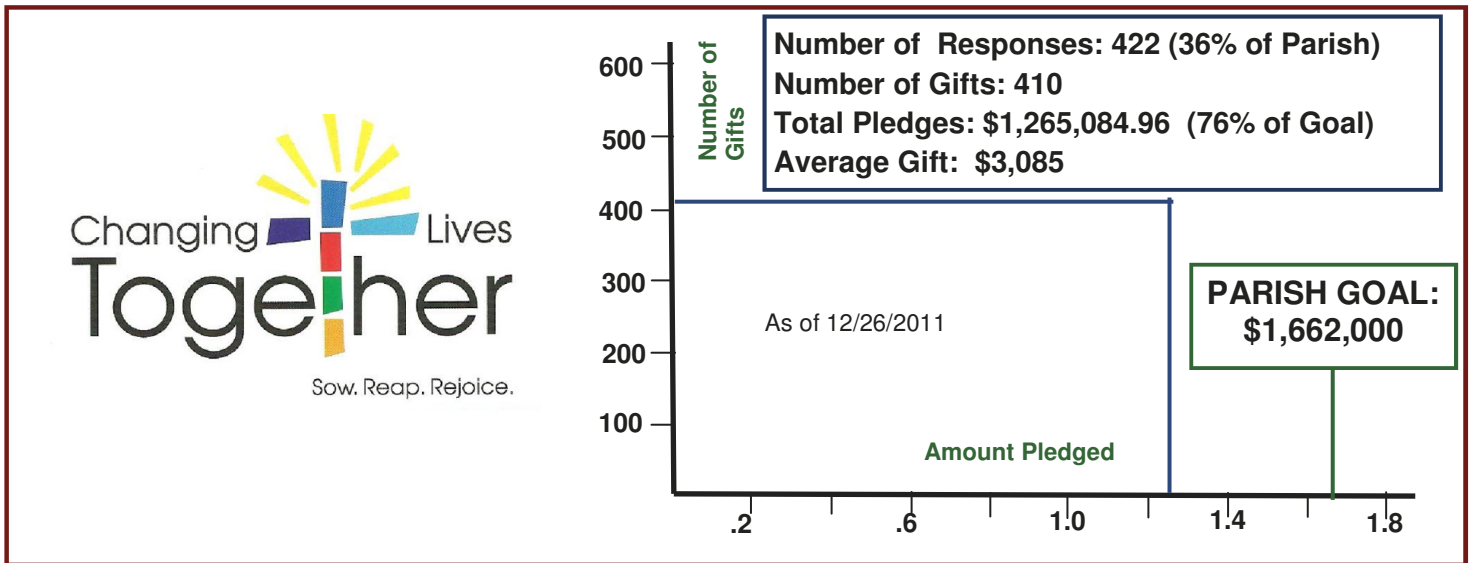


## Potluck Dinner And Game Night



Friday, January 20, 6:30-10:30 p.m.

Bring cards or a board game to share. Sign up on the bulletin boards to bring a dish to pass that will serve 10-12 people. Tickets are \$5 each and will be on sale after all Masses next weekend. Tickets will also be available in the office. Ticket price helps to cover the cost of chicken, beverages, and bartender.  
*All Adults are Welcome*



### First Eucharist Preparation



Parent/Child Session #1  
 January 10 or January 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Presentation of Candidates:  
 January 22 at 9:30 a.m./11:30 a.m.

Parent/Child Session #2  
 February 8 or February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Parent/Child Session #3  
 March 7 or March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Family Interviews scheduled  
 April 11, April 18, and May 2.

Celebration of First Eucharist will be  
 scheduled between Easter and Pentecost



### Why did the Magi give gifts to Jesus?

The Magi knew they were traveling to greet a new king and brought gifts that were appropriate at the time for a king. Over the years, the Church has reinterpreted the gifts in terms of Jesus' life. They gave him gold to recognize his royalty. The expensive gift of Frankincense, often burned to carry prayers to Heaven, was a symbol of Jesus' priesthood. His last gift, Myrrh, was used in burial preparations, a sign that Jesus would suffer and die for us.

### G.R.A.C.E.

#### Growing Responding As Catholics Everyday

For: Adults, Senior Citizens,  
 Married without children,  
 Single Adults,  
 Families

January 22, 24, 25, 27

#### Grades 1-6 Age-Specific Fall Sessions

Monday/Tuesday Afternoon:  
 4:45-6:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday Evening: 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Next sessions January 30/31

#### Early Childhood Sunday Program

Held during the 9:30 a.m. Mass  
 (for late 4 and 5 year olds)  
 No EC on GRACE weeks

#### Children's Liturgy Of The Word

During 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Masses  
 (for Grades 1 on up)

## G.R.A.C.E

### Growing Responding As Catholics Everyday

—Next Session—  
 January 22, 24, 25, 27  
**6:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Theme:** Believing in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
**Catechetical Area:** Creed

#### This month's goal is:

- To appreciate the Christian belief in God as one God in three persons
  - To explore some of the scriptural roots to this understanding
  - To enter more deeply into this Christian structure of prayer

January  
 Menu:  
 Pasta



Visit our website at: [www.ssjohnandpaul.org](http://www.ssjohnandpaul.org)

### Attention Catechists!



**Mark Your Calendars**  
 G.R.A.C.E lesson planning:  
 January 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Age-Specific lesson planning  
 January 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Catechist Formation: Echoes of Faith  
 January 18, February 15, March 14 and  
 April 18 at 6:30 p.m. (dinner provided.)



**Attention all 9-12 Graders:**

- ◆ New Calendars for 2012 are now available in the literature racks in front of the office. Please pick one up if you did not receive one.
- ◆ Our next 9-12 grade teen meeting will be held on January 8 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please bring a friend and join us.
- ◆ **Teens we need your help** with the 7th grade Age-Specific Session on Saturday, January 14 after the 5:00 p.m. mass. A simple meal will be provided for you. Please call Mrs. Peters if you are available and willing to help with this session. Lesson planning for this session will be held on Thursday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m.

**Attention 7th & 8th Graders:**

- ◆ The next Age Specific Session will be January 14, 2012 Letters explaining your session have gone out. If you have not received your letter please call Mrs. Peters at 586-781-9488. This is a mandatory G.R.A.C.E. Age Specific Session.
- ◆ Lesson Planning for all Age-Specific Catechists will be on Thursday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. If you cannot make the lesson planning please call Mrs. Peters ASAP.

**Babysitters Needed**



We are in need of some volunteers who would be willing to babysit on Saturday afternoons starting in January from 12:30 p.m.—2:00 p.m. during our new English as Second Language classes. We are hoping to get enough volunteers so this won't be too big of a commitment for any one person. Please call Bridget or Kathy at the parish office 586-781-9010. Requirements include completion of Protecting God's Children workshop (or the teen equivalent Called to Serve). Teens that volunteer would never be alone, there would be an adult present at all times.

**Reconnect**

**Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m.**



This outreach is designed for Catholics who are not yet connected to a parish, or who have left the Catholic community for any reason:

- Recently moved to the area
- Got out of the habit of weekly Mass attendance
- Divorced
- Remarried
- Didn't like priest
- Hurt by past action
- Don't agree with certain aspects of church
- Other?

Do you know someone you could invite? Maybe a family member or neighbor would be open to this discussion. In our introductory session we will hear concerns or struggles from those gathered and try to address topics that arise. We hope to be able to "reconnect" those Catholics to a community who worships, serves, and fellowships as disciples of Christ.

**Book Review**

**(and reading by the author!)  
Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m.**

**The Waiting Place**  
by Eileen Button



We all spend precious time just waiting. We wait in traffic, grocery store lines, and carpool circles. We wait to grow up, for true love, and for our children to be born. We even wait to die. We can't escape the waiting place. Somehow, in between our texting and tweeting and living and dying, we end up there again and again.

Chock-full of humor and poignant insights, these stories will make you laugh and cry. They'll challenge you to enjoy, or at least endure, the now. As Eileen has learned, "To Wait is human. To find life in the waiting place, divine."

Eileen Button is a weekly columnist for the Flint Journal. She lives with her family in Davison, MI. She has graciously agreed to be here at SSJP when we discuss her book. She will be reading for us as well.

*~ Adapted from book cover*

Books available for purchase in the church office for \$11.

**North Macomb Vicariate Welcome Home Catholics**

*The parishes of the North Macomb Vicariate invite you to come back home to your faith community...*

Welcome Home Catholics is a program with a "no pressure" approach to welcome back those people who have been away. The program is only 6 weeks long and will be held on Wednesday nights from 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. beginning on January 4 and running through February 8. It is not that hard to come back home and you will be glad you did.

Location: St. Isidore Catholic Church  
18021 23 Mile Road  
Macomb, MI  
586-286-1700



- ◆ January 4: Welcome—Memories of the Church
- ◆ January 11: Why are we Catholic
- ◆ January 18: Prayer, the First Step
- ◆ January 25: We Celebrate the Mass
- ◆ February 1: Marriage and Annulments
- ◆ February 8: Reconciliation Reuniting with God and our Catholic Community

*Any questions please call or email Pat Berg at 586-232-4699, tiefend@comcast.net*

## St. Christine Soup Kitchen Volunteer Opportunity February 4

The Saturday Soup Kitchen at St. Christine in Detroit is in need of volunteers to serve a mid-day meal to their guests. This ministry would not take the place of, but rather be in addition to the current weekday, bimonthly ministry at the Salvation Army soup kitchen in Mt. Clemens. It is our hope that people who work during the week or perhaps families would be available to volunteer.



**We have been asked to provide volunteers on February 4, 2012.** We will meet in the parking lot at SS. John and Paul at 10:00 a.m.. We should return to SS. John

& Paul around 3:00 p.m.. Please call Kathy in the parish office to volunteer or for more information.

## Domestic Violence is Real



If you feel you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, emotionally and/or physically, you are not alone and help is available in Macomb County. For counseling services, call Catholic Services at 586-416-2300. For shelter, call Turning Point at 586-463-6990.

Additional help is available at the Family Violence Helpline; you can reach them at 1-800-996-6228; or at the National Domestic Violence Hotline, call 1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-799-7233.

## Income Tax Help Needed

The Samaritan House is looking for people who have an interest in preparing income tax forms. Their income tax preparation program for low-income people is expanding this year. The program operates Thursdays and Saturdays during February and March. The training is free. If you are interested, call Pamela at 586-336-9956.

## MCREST Dinner Helpers and Dessert Donors Wanted!



St. Clement of Rome in Romeo will be taking their turn to house the MCREST guests in late January. We will be providing a dinner for them on Tuesday, January 24, 2012. We are in need of dinner helpers. **We need bakers to donate desserts and people to help prepare, serve and clean up.** Bakers, you would need to have your dessert here at SS. John and Paul by 2:00 p.m. on January 24. Requested items are cakes and pies. The time commitment would be about 3 hours for those interested in helping with meal preparation. We will meet at St. Clement at 5:30 p.m. and be finished by 8:30 p.m.. Please call Kathy in the Parish Office if you can donate your time in any of these areas.

## Thanks for Gift from Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Assembly 3057 graciously donated \$250 to SS. John and Paul for food pantry use. We, in turn, paid it forward to the food pantry at St. Francis-St. Maximilian. The following is a letter of thanks.

*Dear Fr. Buersmeyer and Parishioners,*

*It is difficult to express our extreme gratefulness for your recent generous gift of \$250.00 to our food pantry. We are still seeing a great need from our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. With generous donations like yours we are able to continue to meet that need and ease some of the burden by helping to provide these families with nutritious meals.*

*You are truly living the Gospel as you assist us in "feeding the lambs" of the world.*

*Blessings in Christ,  
St. Francis-St. Maximilian Food Pantry  
Fr. Christopher Talbot, Pastor*

## Brown Bag Food Drive



SS. John and Paul will be participating in the North Macomb Vicariate's Brown Bag food drive for the food pantry at St. Francis/St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Brown grocery bags labeled with specific requested items will be located in the hallway to the Activity Center beginning December 10. **Please consider taking a bag, filling it with what you can and returning it the weekend of January 7 and 8.** Your generosity is appreciated!

## Walk for Warmth 2012



Macomb County Community Services Agency's 22nd annual Walk for Warmth takes place February 25, 2012. Funds raised through the Walk are used to assist low income Macomb County residents with preventing utility shut off and furnace repair/replacement. These funds are an important source of help for people who might otherwise "fall through the cracks" because other assistance is not available to them.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and continues until the Walk begins at 10:00 a.m. The Walk is a 5K walk/run. The 2012 Walk for Warmth will be held at the Clinton Township Senior Adult Life Center, 40730 Romeo Plank Rd., Clinton Township, MI 48038.

To get involved, please call 586-469-6999, email [mccsa@macombcountymi.gov](mailto:mccsa@macombcountymi.gov) or visit [www.MacombCountyMI.gov/mccsa](http://www.MacombCountyMI.gov/mccsa) and let them know if you would like to be a walker, sponsor, donor or event sponsor.

*And Mary  
kept all these  
things,  
reflecting on  
them in her  
heart.*



*Luke 2:19*

# Pastor's Perspective

## The Christmas Season

This year, because Christmas fell on a Sunday, the Christmas season celebrations are a little different. Ordinarily, in addition to the Christmas and January 1<sup>st</sup> celebrations during the weeks, there are three Sundays to the season: the Feast of the Holy Family the Sunday after Christmas; the Feast of the Epiphany the first Sunday of the New Year; and then ending the season with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In other words, from the Church's point of view, Christmas extends from Christmas through the Baptism of the Lord. This year there are only two Sundays in the season. We celebrate the feast of Mary Mother of God today because it is January 1 and then we will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany next week. The Baptism of the Lord will be celebrated on the following Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> to close off the season and the feast of the Holy Family gets shifted to a weekday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

All of the feasts of the season are an extension of the primary celebration of Christmas. The feasts of the Holy Family and the Baptism of the Lord remind us that the Incarnation—the union of the divine Word with the human nature of the baby Jesus—was not just some magical moment. That union had to be nourished and developed in Mary and Joseph and Jesus' everyday life in the years following the birth, leading up to his entry into a public mission as an adult, which we see inaugurated at his baptism. St. Irenaeus, an early Church bishop and theologian, stressed how all aspects and all ages of human life were lived by Jesus so that he might “recapitulate” (sum up and perfect in his own person) everything that is truly human. St. Irenaeus even speculated that maybe we misread the dating of his birth or death, because he believed that Jesus was supposed to have lived till he reach at least the beginning of old age, in order to transform that human experience by his grace as well. [Side notes: for Irenaeus old age began at fifty! According to the best historical dating we have now, Jesus was probably born a few years earlier than first thought and so might have been in his late thirties when he died rather than the traditional thirty-three years of age.]

The feast of the Epiphany, celebrating the story of the magi finding the Christ child in a house, safe from Herod, reminds us that the salvation Jesus brings is not just for one people or one group, but for all. Everyone, if they seek for what is true and right and good, will find that Jesus is the fulfillment of all their hopes. And the feast of Mary, Mother of God, which we celebrate today, honors Mary as the bearer of a child who is not only fully human, but fully divine as well. In the fifth century great controversy arose as to whether Mary could be called *Theotokos* (“maternal bearer of God”) or only *Christotokos* (“bearer of the Christ”). In other words, it was a controversy less about Mary and more about the full divinity of Jesus. By proclaiming Mary as fully *Theotokos* (translated into Latin and then into other languages as “Mother of God”, though this needs to be properly understood), the Church was protecting its core doctrine on salvation. If Jesus was simply a human Messiah, then we would still be awaiting a definitive Savior. Jesus, the perfect union of the Word of God with humanity, is that definitive Savior. And so Mary can be rightly called both Mother of the Christ and Mother of God.

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### \*Christmas Take Down

We could use about 15 people to help take down Christmas next Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, after the 11:30 Mass. It should only take about one hour.

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### \*The New Translation of the Roman Missal: Eucharistic Prayer III

Throughout this Christmas season, we are mainly using the new translation of Eucharistic Prayer III. I've posted the full text with a side-by-side commentary online. Go to the parish homepage, click on the Roman Missal logo and then on the link to Eucharistic Prayer III. As with the one done for Eucharistic Prayer II, some of the concepts or words that are new or awkward are discussed as well.

Eucharistic Prayer III was a newly created text after Vatican II, not based on any specific prior text, but as a model text, for all that a Eucharistic

Prayer should contain. Because it does not have any Preface specifically attached to it, Eucharistic Prayer III is suitable for any Mass, any season. A real strength of this prayer is its clear incorporation of the role of the Holy Spirit, something a bit lost in the ancient Roman canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). The role of the Holy Spirit is recounted, the Spirit is invoked (what is called an “epiclesis”) as the priest raises his hands over the gifts of bread and wine, and the Spirit is prayed for so that not just the bread and wine, but all of us, might become the Body and Blood of Christ. Due to its clarity and full theology, Eucharistic Prayer III is probably the most often used Eucharistic prayer in the post-Vatican II celebration of Mass.

One change from the previous translation is the use of the phrase “*from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name*” rather than “*so that from east to west a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your name*”. The underlying Latin uses that temporal rather than spatial imagery. In fact, in the previous translation, due to the political and economic realities of our world, as though only the northern hemisphere and its conflict between eastern and western blocs really mattered, to pray ‘from east to west’ was taken by some as yet another marginalizing of the rest of the world. But the new translation captures what was intended, temporal imagery. Specifically, a fulfillment of Malachi 1:11 where the language of a such a pure offering from the rising to the setting to its setting is referred to. We are now connected immediately to that biblical image and passage.

I much prefer the new phrasing here. However, not so much, or at least a caution needs to be given, as to the word “pure”. Yes, it is used in the biblical passage mentioned above. “Pure sacrifice” brings out all the Old Testament biblical allusions to what we are to sacrifice to God: a spotless or unblemished or pure victim. It brings out as well, then, the sinlessness of Jesus. However, in contemporary English we tend to connect “purity” to chaste sexuality. That is fine, but so much more than that is what makes this a “pure” sacrifice. The prior translation actually had a stronger theological word here—“perfect sacrifice”—and that is what we need to think about as we pray this prayer. Jesus' sacrifice is not just pure in some sense, but

is perfect, complete, bringing to fulfillment, all that can be offered to the Father. I find myself still using “perfect” at times or “pure and perfect”. On the other hand, I do like the clear use of biblical language and would not want to lose that again.

As with all the new translation, there is a great deal of indirect, petitionary language used, which can, at times, sound a bit odd to our modern ears. “*We humbly implore you*”, “*graciously make holy these gifts*”, “*give kind admittance to your kingdom*” and so forth. Phrases such as these are often used now in the Eucharistic prayers, to convey a sense of an unworthy petitioner coming before someone much greater than they. Because it can sound a bit “off” or even false to our modern ears, we need to be careful with how we understand it. We are not the wily petitioner who is trying to sweet talk God into something. We are truly in awe of what God has done for us in and through Jesus by the work of his Holy Spirit. It is a humility that comes from reverence and awe, one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Of the phrases that are mentioned above, the one I have the most difficulty with is “*give kind admittance to*”. That phrase occurs near the end of Eucharistic Prayer III, as we pray for those who have died. Not only does it sound a bit too quaint, it also loses some of the personal imagery of the previous translation where we prayed “*Welcome into your kingdom our departed brothers and sisters*”. To “welcome” conveys a very personal involvement, an invitation to personal friendship and communion. “To give kind admittance to” is more impersonal, an image of unlocking a door or gate and letting someone in out of sheer kindness, who has no necessary connection to the one who is letting you in. I have tried various phrasing here but haven’t figured out how to say the new phrasing in a way that seems like real, heartfelt personal prayer to me.

One seemingly very minor change but done for important theological reasons is the switch from “*we bring you these gifts*” to “*these gifts we have brought to you*.” The new translation makes it even clearer than the previous ones that there is a big distinction between what we do at the

preparation of the gifts (we bring gifts of bread and wine to the altar) and what we do during the Eucharistic Prayer (we offer them to the Father, through the action of Jesus and the Holy Spirit). Many of us were accustomed to thinking of the Preparation of the Gifts and Altar time as the “Offertory”. We were even taught that it was one of the three most important parts of the Mass (along with the consecration and communion), none of which could be missed, else you commit a mortal sin. You might miss the entire Liturgy of the Word and only commit a venial sin! That understanding, of course and thankfully, was overturned with the changes in the Mass after Vatican II. The entire Eucharistic Liturgy is the Mass. We are to be actively involved in all of it. There is no point at which we should be saying “*at least I got there before...*” or “*at least I didn’t leave until...*”

On the other hand, if one had to name when the important action of “Offering” takes place at Mass, we now know clearly that this takes place in and through the praise and thanksgiving and remembrance given during the Eucharistic Prayer. In fact, the ancient name for the Eucharistic prayer in Greek is an *Anaphora*, a “lifting or offering up”. Eucharistic Prayer III’s reference to the gifts we have “brought” to the altar (at the preparation of the gifts) and referencing “offering” only after the Holy Spirit is invoked and the institution narrative is prayed is a way of capturing the ideas mentioned above.

The next two items are true of each Eucharistic prayer but bear repeating with each new discussion. The first has to do with the use of the translation “chalice” rather than “cup” for the Latin *calix*. The Latin *calix* is used for ordinary cups. However in English we tend to reserve it for special cups, highly decorated cups, and so we have to be careful not to misunderstand its use here. Jesus is not using some specially ornamented cup. His would have been the blessing cup many households used in prayer. But his transformation of that ritual prayer into one connected to his body and blood does make the cup we drink from special—not because it is made of gold or other precious material—but because of what happens in its use here. In many ways it would have been clearer if the

present translation still used “cup” rather than “chalice” prior to the consecration of the wine and reserved “chalice” for the consecration prayer and afterwards.

The second item concerns the phrase: “*The blood of the new and eternal covenant which will be poured out for you and for many*.” It can’t be emphasized strongly enough that these words in English are not to be seen as limiting for whom Jesus is offering his life. It would be heresy to believe that Jesus died for only some of humanity and not for all humanity, past, present and future. The previous translation was much better at conveying this directly. Why the change? Because in Scripture we have the gospel stories using the phrase “for many”, most likely in reference to Jesus taking on the role of the Suffering Servant prophesied in Isaiah. But in Hebrew that is a euphemism for “all”. And in the gospels Jesus is basically saying: “*my blood will be shed, not just for you few who are here, but for the many*”; that is, an open-ended phrase that is emphasizing how God’s salvation in Christ is not to be limited to a few. The problem is that in English the word “many” is usually heard as meaning “some but not all”. We have to work hard at always remembering that Jesus died for all and that is what is being expressed in this consecration prayer. Periodically praying “*for all*” at this point will help emphasize the correct meaning.

I will conclude next week with a couple further points with regard to Eucharistic Prayer III. In the meantime, please remember that the words of these prayers are not magical incantations, as though a priest need only mechanically say them and, presto, what needs to happen, happens. These are prayers. Not just us priests, but the entire community needs to find a way to embrace them as prayers, to know their meanings, to not get misled in what they are trying to convey. My own goal is to find a way to pray them with as much meaningfulness and care as I found I was able to do with the previous translation.

May 2012 be a year of blessing to you. Even better, may 2012 be a year in which we are given many, many opportunities to be a blessing to others.

**Fr. Buersmeyer**

**Gratefully Received On  
December 24-25, 2011**

**Weekly budget.....\$11,100.00**  
 Offertory .....\$21,987.00  
 No. Sunday envelopes used .....378  
 ESO (30 of the month) .....\$3,237.00  
 No ESO .....42  
**Total Offertory .....\$25,224.00**

**Other Monies / (# Envelopes)**

Capital Imprv / (7) .....\$190.00  
 Children / (6).....\$102.44  
 Year End / (13).....\$2,855.00  
 Ret. For Religious / (8) .....\$195.00

**YTD as of 12/31/11**

YTD Budget.....\$323,085.00  
 YTD Offertory .....\$307,636.00  
 Shortage .....(-\$15,449.00)

*Stewardship  
 ...a way of life  
 Share time and talent  
 Sacrificial Giving  
 Joyfully accept His gifts  
 Pray and give thanks*

It seems like only yesterday we were making New Year's Resolution for 2011 and today is the first day of 2012. One principle of stewardship is sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure. How will this principle affect and shape our lives this year?

**Meijer Community Rewards Update**



We received a check from the Meijer's Community Rewards Program for \$100.57 for purchases made in

November 2011. Eighty-one parishioners are enrolled in this fundraising program, with all proceeds earmarked for future technology needs. Since April 2004 we've earned over \$12,300! Thank you for using this fundraising opportunity to benefit the parish.

12/27/2011

**Pray for our sick**

Sally Jenkins  
 Shirley Carter  
 Matthew Zurek  
 Drew Pointe  
 Fred Blonde  
 Anna Basilisco  
 Douglas Wolfbauer  
 Anna Lanni

**Eucharistic Prayer Requests**

**Sunday, January 1, 2012**

**8:00 a.m. —**  
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

**9:30 a.m. —**  
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

**11:30 a.m. —**  
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

**Monday, January 2, 2012**

**7:00 p.m. —**  
 Louis Safie by Safie Family

**Tuesday, January 3, 2012**

**9:00 a.m. —**  
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

**Wednesday, January 4, 2012**

**9:00 a.m. —**  
 Paul and Mary Altese by Family

**Saturday, January 7, 2012**

**5:00 p.m. —**  
 Michelle Horn by Lil Horn  
 Pasquale and Assunta Cocco by Family  
 Bob Diebboll by Greenway family

**Sunday, January 8, 2012**

**8:00 a.m. —**  
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

**9:30 a.m. —**  
 Jim and Marge Hock by Peggy Hock-Gielow

**11:30 a.m. —**  
 Bob Diebboll by Margaret Pigott and Lucille O'Conner

**Stewardship and New Year's Resolutions**

Stewardship is a commitment of mind and heart to the Lord, a way of living a life of gratitude, to make daily decisions to glorify God, and to share of ourselves and our gifts as generously as we can. The end of the year allows us to look forward to the new year with anticipation, reflecting on the changes we need to make in our lives and resolving to follow through on those changes. Here are a few more resolutions to become a better steward in 2012:

*Stewardship of Money:*

Resolve to live within your budget. Reprioritize your financial goals to ensure that the Lord comes first in your spending. Take positive steps to improve your financial health.

*Stewardship of Work:*

Resolve to be faithful to your daily, work-related tasks and offer them up to the Lord. Cultivate your skills. Deepen your knowledge. Be mindful of how you are building the Kingdom of God.

*Stewardship of Mind:*

Resolve to keep your mind active. Commit to being more informed on the issues of the day. Read your bible or attend a Scripture class.

*Stewardship of Neighbor:*

Resolve to be a person of hospitality: to make time for others who enter your life. Be more aware of those times when a neighbor, co-worker, or stranger, needs a moment of kindness, a little attention or an affirming gesture on your part.

*Stewardship of the Poor:*

Resolve to live with more compassion and in solidarity with those less fortunate. Remember the poor in prayer, and commit to helping relieve in some way the plight of those who are impoverished financially or through volunteering.

*Adapted from the International Catholic Stewardship Council.*

**Sponsor of the Week**

This week's sponsor is **Tommy G's Barber Shop**. Please see their full ad on the back of the bulletin. And remember to patronize all of our sponsors because they make this bulletin possible!

