

# The Catholic Community of Saint John the Evangelist & Newman Center

**St. John's**  
115 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North  
Wahpeton, ND 58075-4505  
(701)642-6982  
[www.stjohns-wahpeton.org](http://www.stjohns-wahpeton.org)  
Fax - 701-642-2601

**Newman Center**  
701 7<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Wahpeton, ND

**Mass Times**  
672-0898

**Pastor**  
Rev. Dale Lagodinski  
642-6982

**Parochial Vicar**  
Rev. Terry Dodge

**Deacons**  
Douglas Campbell  
George Ethier, Retired  
Gene Hoefs, Retired

**Parish Offices**  
Betsy Sitz  
Pat Keaveny  
642-6982

**Office Hours**  
8:00 am - Noon  
1:00 - 5:00 pm (M - Th)  
1:00 - 3:00 (F)

**Saint John's School**  
Renee Langenwalter, Prin.  
Renee Walter, Secretary  
642-6116

**Parish Life Coordinator**  
Michelle Fehr  
Office: 642-6982  
Home: 642-3461

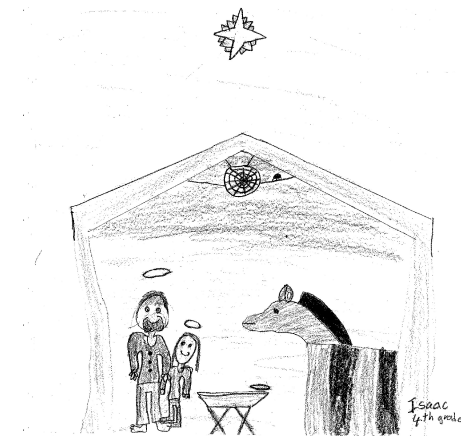
**Youth Ministry Team**  
Tammy Goerger  
Matt Miller  
Kathy Davis  
Office - 642-6982

**St. John's Day Care**  
Chanda Hogness, director  
642-4922

**Parish Lay Officers**  
Jim Lutz 642-6896  
Laurie Straus 642-5095

**Pastoral Council**  
Connie Brandt 642-4312  
Darin Klein 642-6298  
Kristi Mahrer 643-1910  
Cody Miller 642-8014  
Mike Jacklitch 642-1666  
Marty Madsen 642-1808  
Darryl Jilek 640-6609  
Becky Stasko 651-0107  
Rod Koch 274-8282  
Nancy Reynolds 640-5978

## The Nativity of the Lord



Artist - Isaac Wohlers - grade 4

### WEEKEND EUCHARIST

At Saint John's Church  
Saturday, 5:30 pm  
Sunday, 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 am, 7:30 pm

December 25, 2011

**St. John's Parish Mission Statement**  
St. John the Evangelist of Wahpeton, a Catholic community of faithful stewards, uniquely gifted, is committed to living fully a spiritual life. We accomplish this mission by:  
† Celebrating a sacramental life;  
† Being a hospitable, generous, faithful, and forgiving people;  
† Serving as a renewing community of life and love;  
† Supporting all people in their journey toward the Kingdom of God.

**Parish Goal One**  
To have functioning, inspiring and welcoming religious grounds that will meet the present and future needs of the parish and community by developing and implementing a plan for addressing the education facility needs.

**Parish Goal Two**  
To promote continual spiritual growth and fuller participation throughout the parish. We will obtain this goal by researching, developing and implementing a renewal process; developing effective methods for evangelization; developing effective methods for increasing participation by all; promoting enrollment in the parish school and by creating effective communication tools.



Almighty Father, you have sent your Spirit to build up the Church you established through your Son, Jesus Christ. Formed by your love, we form our children. Send Your Spirit upon *Saint John's Center for School and Religious Formation*.. By your grace may our work bear fruit in the hearts and lives of our children and all of your people. Form us in our faith and in our work, all for the greater glory of your name. Amen.

<b>Baptism:</b>	Baptism Renewal/Preparation is required with each new baby. Experienced parents encourage new parents. Next preparation will be in January. Contact the Parish Office at 642-6982.
<b>Confirmation / First Eucharist:</b>	April 28, 2012
<b>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:</b>	For the un-baptized and those seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. For information, contact the Parish Office at 642-6982.
<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Saturday, 4:00 p.m. at St. John's, or by appointment. Call 642-6982.
<b>Marriage:</b>	Arrangements must be made at least 6 months in advance. Please call the Parish Office at 642-6982.
<b>Sacrament of the Sick:</b>	Hospitalization or serious illness, please contact one of the priests for Sacrament of the Sick at 642-6982.
<b>Pastoral Care:</b>	If you are homebound or hospitalized, Eucharist will be brought to you. Contact the Parish Office at 642-6982.
<b>Registration:</b>	If you are new to the Wahpeton Community, please register by contacting the Parish Office at 642-6982.

*FUNERALS: To support our parish family in its grief, regular daily Mass, whenever possible will be transferred to the hour of the funeral. + + +*

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S PARISH**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Vigil of Christmas**

Scripture: Is 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 / Mt 1:1-25

5:30 pm EUCHARIST ++ Jeanne Morken and Margaret Leinen

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - The Nativity of the Lord / Christmas**

Scripture: Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14 (Mass at Midnight)

11:15 pm Caroling to Christmas

12:00 Midnight EUCHARIST + Meagan Berg

Scripture: Is 62: 11-12 / Ti 3:4-7 / Lk 2:15-20 (Mass at Dawn)

7:30 am EUCHARIST People of the Parish (Rosary at 7:00 am)

Scripture: Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18 (Mass during the Day)

9:00 am EUCHARIST ++ Earl Ziegelman and Cheryl Kubela

11:00 am EUCHARIST ++ Harold and Mary Formanek

**NO 7:30 pm EUCHARIST**

**Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> - Saint Stephen, first martyr**

**Parish Office Closed**

Scripture: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22

NO EUCHARIST at St. John's

NO BIBLE STUDY

**Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> - Saint John, apostle and evangelist**

Scripture: 1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8

5:30 pm EUCHARIST + Cappy Rieber

NO RCIA

**Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> - The Holy Innocents, martyrs**

Scripture: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 / Mt 2:13-18

7:00 am MORNING PRAYER

7:30 am EUCHARIST + Bernice Caspers

8:00 am - 12:00 noon CENACLE OF LIFE PRAYER

10:00 am EUCHARIST (Leach) + Stanley Blazek

**Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> - The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas / Saint Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr**

Scripture: 1 Jn 2:3-11 / Lk 2:22-35

7:00 am MORNING PRAYER

7:30 am EUCHARIST ++deceased members of the Carl and Anna Hermes family

**Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Scripture: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 / Lk 2:22-40

7:00 am MORNING PRAYER

7:30 am EUCHARIST + Irving Reubish

8:00 - 9:00 am - ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

9:45 am EUCHARIST (SCLC) Int: Margie Briks

**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas / Saint Sylvester I, pope**

Scripture: 1 Jn 2:18-21 / Jn 1:1-18

Sunday Scripture: Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

4:00 pm RECONCILIATION

5:30 pm EUCHARIST Int: Frank and Mary Theede

**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord / Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

7:30 am EUCHARIST + Lucille Holtz (Rosary at 7:00 am)

9:00 am EUCHARIST + James Lies

11:00 am EUCHARIST People of the Parish

**NO 7:30 pm EUCHARIST**

**Christian Mothers:** Dues of \$4 are due January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please mail to Valeria King at 515 1<sup>st</sup> St. N, Wahpeton, ND.



**Proclaimers, Servers, Eucharistic Ministers,  
Ushers and Greeters**

**Please call the parish office if you are able to help at any of the Masses on December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>**



**Annual Community Christmas Dinner:** Faith Church, 1589 11<sup>th</sup> St N, Wahpeton. Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Dinner served at 12 noon. Turkey and Trimming. Transportation available if needed, No Charge Call 640-1410, 642-4143 or 642-8416

**Abortions** continue to be performed every Wednesday in Fargo at the Red River Women's Clinic on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. We ask you to please join us in prayer here at the church on Wednesdays during the hours of 8 am - 12 noon for an end to abortion, and all crimes against life. Thank you and may God reward you.

Cenacle of Life Prayer Group

**New St. John's School t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts**



are available with our NEW logo. Youth: \$10 - white or red, \$12 - tie dye red or tie dye multi t-shirts, \$18 - red hooded sweatshirts. Adult: \$10 white or red t-shirts. If you are interested in buying a

shirt or sweatshirt please stop by the office. For more information call 642-6116.

**God's Gift of Jesus Christ**

*It was December, and nearing Christmas Day. One night, I had a most dazzling dream. In it the Lord spoke to me and said "I am with you, and bring you, and all mankind, the gifts of Jesus Christ."*

"The first gift you shall receive is that of **J**oy. I will give of myself, even in times of fear and sadness. Trust in Me." "I give you the gift of **E**ternity with Me. Come follow Me and the example of Jesus, the Son, in all His ways." "I give you the gift of **S**weetness. Though mankind may believe it as a flow of character for those in search of dominance over others; it is the humble and kind that are truly strong." "I give you the gift of **U**nderstanding. May you think of others, and accept them in your differences." "I give you the gift of **S**ilence; a long forgotten treasure. It is here that you will hear My voice, and feel secure in My loving embrace when you listen." I give you the gift of **C**harity; that you may show kindness in all you do."

"I give you the gift of **H**ope for the good that is to come in heaven. Once there, you will no longer have need of it, and you may pass it on to others in greater need." "I give you the gift of **R**est, for it is in Me you will feel refreshed." "I give you the gift of **I**nvitation to be with Me always. No matter where you are, I will always be with you!" "I give you the gift of a **S**oul in all its purity. Your only requirement is to reconcile your faults in order to maintain it and keep its strength. With strength in Me, the heaviest of hearts will be lifted from the chains of despair." "I give you the gift of **T**ruth. I AM the Lord of lords; the King of kings. Believe in Me!" "So go now. Evangelize. It is of Me in your daily speech and deeds, that all will see Me in you. Receive the Eucharist that you will be fed forever. Lastly, remember this; I give peace to all mankind if they will but follow Me."

Written by Darlyn Weber

## PARISH SUPPORT - A TIME TO SHARE

Our Tithes to the Lord (Fiscal Year July 1-June 30)

"No one, in fact, is so poor that they have nothing to give." John Paul II

Amount Needed Weekly	\$ 11,120.00
Envelope "Our Return to the Lord"	\$ 9,781.00
188 Contributors	
Children / Youth	\$ 8.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,721.00
Plate	\$ 837.71
Year-to-Date Collection thru 12-18	\$ 282,561.23
Budgeted Amount Needed thru 12-18	\$ 278,000.00

Reminder: Please have all 2011 contributions to the parish office by December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks be to God for our regular contributors. What honors God is not who gives the most, what honors God is all of us doing what we can.

**Music Notes:** There will be no practice this week.

Thank you to all who helped with our beautiful Christmas music.

## Youth News

December 28<sup>th</sup> - NO Religious Formation Classes - Enjoy your Christmas break!

Deadline for January Search has been extended to December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Great News! We have some students registered to attend the Catholic Heart Work Camp. There is still a very short time to join us. All in gr 8-12 are welcome. Please call or email Michelle if you would join us. More info at <http://www.heartworkcamp.com/>

**Please pray for the ill and for those who have asked for prayers.** Please pray for: Lydia Zwilling, Wanda Hought, Sr. Therese Merrick, Mary Gette, Norma Poppe, Tammy Meyer, Barb Hagstrom, Jackson Doll, Wyatt Doll, Mary Ruddy, Amelia Zimmerman, Donna Olson, Gregory Waite, Traci Fink-VanOeteghem, Ed Straus, Gerald Braun, Richard Myers, Jane Nold, David Goroski, Pat Goerger, Diane Shorma, Miles Bosch, Sue Braun, Debbie Flanders, Marietta Webster, Stan Barton, Lowell Barton, Lola Freitag, Donald Freitag, Robert Schmitt, Ellie Rezabek-Turner, Mark Schmitt, Cindy Packard, Sophia Geray, John Miesen, Ila Leinen, Ardel Kressin, Kathy Mauch, Tim Lietz, Richard Kurowski, Theresa Thompson, Agnes Railing, Bob Hanson, Francis Schuster, Doug Wanzek, Delores Westphal, Patricia Geditz, Lucylle Schmitt, Mary Ratzlaff, Marilyn Basore, Elarine Pelzl, Connor Terfehr, Mary Busta, James Parow, Audrey Peplinski, Harley Trinkka, Deborah Landphere, Hayden Asche, Mary Ann Siemieniewski, Dawson Wienbar, Virgil Woytassek, Maria Borikova, Shawn Wieser and Matthew Wieser. Praying for our sick is a Corporal Work of Mercy for us all. Please notify our office if a name needs to be listed in our bulletin and please also let us know when a name can be removed.



**New Course for handing on the Faith:** The Fargo Diocese is offering a 2-year course for adults. Come learn your faith plus learn how to better hand on the faith. The course requires a commitment to read the assignments, submit homework and attend all 4 Saturday seminar days each year (2 in Grand Forks & 2 in Fargo). Upon successful completion, you will be awarded a Pontifical Certificate via the Maryvale Institute. Begins Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Deadline to register is January 3, 2012. Cost is \$800 a year (that's \$67.00 a month or 2.20 a day.... It's worth it!) For more information: [Katie.dubas@fargodiocese.org](mailto:Katie.dubas@fargodiocese.org) or 701.356.7908

**Family members of our local Guard unit need our help.** The Family Group Coordinator says it would be helpful to compile a resource listing for the National Guard families of community members willing to donate a little of their time & talents. We are not being asked to provide professional services but willingness to be a resource for them for similar things we might do at our own homes: car/mechanical diagnostics (i.e. "Could you come look at my car. It won't start."), snow removal, baby sitting/childcare..... If you would be willing to offer some help, please call their coordinator Dollie at 642-6687 or Michelle at the parish.

**Behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people...A Savior has been born for you.** -- Lk 2:10-11  
**REFLECTION** The good news of Christmas is for everyone, and especially for the unborn, the most helpless of all. Christ's birth was announced first to the lowly, not to the powerful. Jesus' ministry continued to follow that pattern: He consistently sought out those who were on the outskirts of society. We are called to do the same.  
**PRAYER** Lord, to welcome You means to welcome the obligations that Your mission places on us. This Christmas, I resolve to intervene for the unborn child.

**Advertisers of the Week:** St Johns thanks **Century 21 Vista, Inc. / Bob Veland, Broker/Associate** for their support of our weekly bulletin.

**Deepest Sympathy** is extended to **Kevin King and Sue Pellman and families** on the death of their step-mother, **Joyce King.**  
*May she rest in Eternal Peace!*

## Soon to be Married

Please pray for the following couple who is preparing for marriage within the next few weeks.

Katherine King and Travis Campbell - December 31, 2011

## Thanks be to God for you and God bless you!

We priests are very, very grateful for your greeting, cards and gifts which we are honored to receive during this Holy Season of Christmas. Being remembered by you, our parishioners, means so much and is very humbling. We pray that we may be able to serve well your spiritual needs not only during this sacred season but throughout this year. Please pray for us that we may remain faithful and good priests. May you and those you love find in your lives the joy of the peace which only Christ can give.

Fr. Terry Dodge, Fr. Dale Lagodinski



# Merry Christmas!

# CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

*Thank you to all who made donations for our beautiful Christmas decorations in honor and memory of loved ones.*



## IN HONOR OF

Monica Ehlert by Barb and Donavon Buck

Elsie Griffith by Larry and Jeanette Miller

Living members of the Niehaus and Masching families by Herb and Lillian Masching

Herb and Lillian Masching by Larry and Cindy Masching

Audrey Hermes by Mark and Judy Underberg

Monica Ehlert by Kent and Sue Quamme

George and Edna Tauber by Doug and Liz Toussaint

Geneva Miranowski by Daryl & Phyllis Knutson and family

Jason and Ashley Ehlert by Matt Miller

## IN MEMORY OF

Mr and Mrs Melvin Olson and Norman King by Valeria King

David West by Jane West family

Frank and Mary Jundt and Barney and Mary Held by Duane Held family

Ben and Margaret Ehlert and Arnold and May Lambrecht by Dale and Mary Lambrecht

Louise Lauman and all deceased family members by the Lauman family

Floriene and Gorden Miller, Corey Gette, Mal and Marie Gette by Bob and Mary Gette

Henry Krump by the family of Henry Krump

James M Hruza by Irene M Hruza

Diane Boll by Frank and Mary Theede

Farrel Crissler by Carol Crissler

Sylvester M Althoff by MaryAnna Althoff

Kelsey Ann Vetter and Meagan N Berg by Mary, Kevin and Katie Vetter and Karley and Brady Sykora

Luccile Buck and Lorin Ehlert by Barb and Donavon Buck

Kent Odermann, Ivof Bartelson and Shirley Appell by Timothy and Angela Appell

Deceased family members by Jim and Tammy Miller

John Griffith, Court and Laura Miller by Larry and Jeanette Miller

Deceased members of the Niehaus and Masching family and all those who have given their life in service to our country, and those reported as MIA, by Herb and Lillian Masching.

Norbert and Loren Ehlert by Monica Ehlert

Frank Gregor Jr. by the Gregor families

Luke Allmendinger by Dean and Jo Allmendinger

Dick Haskell by Joyce Haskell

Deceased members of the Ron and Doris Bruesch family by Joyce Haskell

John and Eva Frank and Laurence and Lucille Braun by Niel and Marian F. Braun

Joe Breuer and Mallie Breuer by Mary Joyce and Bob Breuer

Dan, Wayne and Connie Winter by Tim and Kelly Miller, Kelsey, Tyler and Ty

Clarence and Adeline Miller and Harry and Leora Miller by Tim and Kelly Miller

Leo Nordick by Betty Nordick and family

Patrick Goggin and Jens Bertelsen by Catherine V. Goggin

Don and Ramona Schend by Larry and Cindy Masching

Chuck Dufault by Dori Dufault

Donald Hermes, Jim and Bradley Halstenson, Leo and Frances Underberg, Kurt Underberg, Alice (Sam) Underberg by Mark and Judy Underberg

Rod Nordick, Scott Quamme, Norbert and Bud Ehlert by Kent and Sue Quamme

Steve Tauber and Lucy Herrick by Doug and Liz Toussaint

John Ciesynski by Geraldine Ciesynski

James Martin family by Jeanette Munson

Richard Gilles by Mike and Angeline Gilles

William Koenig, John and Margaret Koenig, Hugo and Martha Stern by Lester and Pat Stern

Sylvester Heitkamp by Martha Heitkamp and Joyce Haugen

Mark Miranowski and Marty and Alton Knutson by Daryl and Phyllis Knutson and family

Robert Goroski by Betty Goroski

Jeanne Morken and Margaret Leinen by Richard & Penny Leinen and family

Clarence E Ward by Mark and Joanie Ward

Deborah Weitzel by William and Delores Weitzel

Gust Sestak by Joanne Sestak

Lyle Osmundson by Carol Osmundson

Jean Muir, Caroline Muir, and Lucylle Sturdevant by Jim and Ellen Sturdevant



# *Christmas 2011*

**THANKS BE TO GOD** for all who helped in so many countless, quiet, and even anonymous ways to make the Christmas season so wonderful this year.

**THANKS BE TO GOD** for all who gave of their time and energy to the Christmas liturgies: our marvelous musicians, choir and leaders of song, all who helped create our beautiful environment in and around our church, who in any way assisted in our excellent liturgies and all who quietly help us keep our church home clean! Most of all, we are glad for all who came to pray with us!

**THANKS BE TO GOD** for those who spent precious time, talent, and treasure organizing and working at our church throughout the year. A special thanks to all the committee people who give so much to coordinate our ministries.

**THANKS BE TO GOD** for all who so thoughtfully brought to the parish house goodies as well as gifts of time, talent, and treasure to help us through all the joys and stresses of the holidays. We try to personally thank everyone, but some givers are anonymous and others' names slip off their gifts and may get misplaced!

In the words of Saint Paul to the Philippians: *"I GIVE THANKS TO MY GOD EVERY TIME I THINK OF YOU - WHICH IS CONSTANTLY, IN EVERY PRAYER I UTTER - REJOICING, AS I PLEAD ON YOUR BEHALF, AT THE WAY YOU HAVE ALL CONTINUALLY HELPED PROMOTE THE GOSPEL FROM THE VERY FIRST DAY."*

(Phil 1:3-5)

## ***A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PASTORS and STAFF***

*Thanks be to God for all of you parishioners of Saint John's. Your warm welcomes, supportive cooperation, and willingness to share make our ministry a happy one. Thank you so much for taking the time to remember us with your thoughtful cards and generous gifts this Christmas. The appreciation of parishioners really does sustain us. We are grateful and honored to shepherd Saint John's parish family. God bless each of you.*

Byamulemba Primary school,  
P.O. box 45-Kyaka,  
Missenyi.  
SHULE YA MSINGI BYAMTEMBA  
S.L.P.  
KYAKA  
4<sup>th</sup> November, 2011.

Dearest Americans,

On behalf of Byamulemba Primary school institution especially pupils with their parents, I am really pleased to write this letter to you. It is true that we haven't seen each other for ages but we pray to Almighty God to keep up our communication.

Everything is fine here. No problem at school. We are now busy preparing ourselves for <sup>the</sup> annual examinations. Life around our district is usual only that some areas have famine that was caused by drought that happened in our district last year. It is now rain season where people are seriously working to improve the situation. Otherwise nothing too awful to report.

How is America nowadays. We hope that the weather is conducive for your daily activities. I don't doubt people around you are fine.

We acknowledge your assistance in building our Nation as you offered yourself to support the big number of Tanzanian who are logically found in schools - especially in primary schools where disabled and orphan are many. Worse enough other pupils are victims as their parents died of Aids. Your support is so immense that teachers, pupils, parents and the community as a whole do benefit from it.

Exercise books, school uniforms, pens, pencils, hand and footballs, shoes, mathematical set, flour and cooking oil to mention but a few are the materials that our pupils get from you. Thank you because our pupils are physically and mentally supported and hence reversed in the community. Also this support has greatly improved pupils' academic standard. We cannot forget to thank you for the water pump that makes our pupils involve in practical work such as gardening. So far so good this support has decreased the number of people who could become thieves as they would have failed to complete or attend to school because of lacking school requirements. Likewise aged people are prolonging their life circle through your support. Congratulations!

It will be a wonderful opportunity when you will <sup>organize</sup> yourself and pay a visit at our school. Yours,  
We look forward to hear from you.

MWAZIMU MKUU  
BYAMTEMBA





*Friends of Chimbote*  
Father Jack's Mission

*New Friends of St. John's*

November 2, 2011

Last week, I traveled down the Panamericana highway along the desert coast to catch an early flight from Lima to North Dakota to accompany my dying younger sister, Jean Davis Miller. I used the many travel hours to reflect back on the time she spent in Chimbote after graduating from college. She came here in January of 1976 intending to stay for a couple of weeks and ended up staying for three years working in a school for exceptional children. During that time, she stayed in the convent of the Incarnate Word Sisters of San Antonio, Texas, and befriended the St. James priests in Peru. She became a strong believer in liberation theology and its vision to get people out of poverty through education and at the same time to alleviate the suffering that poverty causes. During those years she had to put up with a lot of unsolicited advice from her older brother.

One of Jeannie's dear friends, Father Ken Irrgang of St. Cloud, MN, accompanied me to Devils Lake on October 26. I had traveled 8,000 miles and was less than one hour away when my other sister, Shirley Keating, called with the news that Jeannie had died. She was surrounded by friends and family in her home, The Davis Motel, which she had run for many years. Jeannie's friends in the US and Chimbote will fondly remember her.

I will use donations in her memory to put cement floors in the rooms in our Matt Talbot Alcoholic and Drug Addiction Center and replace an estera (woven-reed) wall with a cement block wall. I will be offering a Month's Mind Mass to celebrate Jeannie's life on Saturday, November 26.

Today is the Feast of All Souls and we will be remembering the life of Tim Killeen. He was a great supporter and former president of our **Friends of Chimbote** organization. His daughter, Katie, along with the **Friends of Chimbote** board and many other guests will gather tonight for his memorial service.

2011 has been an eventful year for us here in Chimbote, Peru. We are most grateful that Sister Peggy's surgery on Good Friday was successful and that cancer was not detected.

I apologize to friends on my e-mail list for unanswered messages in June and July as my computer suffered a virus and I lost all of my contacts.

Our recent volunteers include Ryan Berry (Fargo, ND), Betsy Dickson (Gilby, ND), Sarah Knoll (Gillette, WY) and Maggie Boehme (Ventura, CA). Susan Brennan (Chesterton, IN) worked with hospice for two and a half months, venturing into the community to provide medical care. We are delighted to have our new volunteer coordinator, Katie Jorgensen, here with us in Chimbote.

We've seen a decrease in gang killings and other violence, and now we are transitioning to a more proactive approach. Two of our gang rehabilitation centers are now prevention centers for children, to help keep them out of the lifestyles of older family members and friends. Since we believe that education is the key to getting out of poverty, it is the focus of our programs. Every day paid staff members and volunteers from several countries work with children ages 4 to 13 in after-school sessions. They tutor, do arts and crafts, and play sports. We believe these activities help the children stay out of negative lifestyles.

Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro

Apartado Postal 134 | Chimbote, PERU | 011-51-43-323375 | [www.friendsofchimbote.org](http://www.friendsofchimbote.org)

A third gang center was converted into a center for young women --- many of them mothers --- who have experienced abuse, prostitution, and jail sentences. The center, Aguilas Sagradas, is a place for them to gather, work on job skills, do community service, and meet with therapists and social workers. Although progress is slow, the newfound glimmer in their eyes lets us know that their self-esteem is improving as they face the future with renewed hope.

St Michael's Parish in Prior Lake, MN, in conjunction with Chanhassen, MN, Rotary Club, and Providence Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC, are helping us to improve the lives of people in Chimbote. Dozens of workers in both communities have dedicated hundreds of hours in collecting supplies and filling containers to send to Chimbote in the coming months. The containers are loaded with medical equipment, office and home furniture, regular and electric wheelchairs, school supplies, supplies for hospice and many other things. To learn more about this and see pictures visit our new website: [www.friendsofchimbote.org](http://www.friendsofchimbote.org)

When you hear in the media that Peru is leading South America in increasing its Gross National Product, as much as 9% these past years, you may wonder why we in Chimbote are still in need of outside financial support for our multiple programs and projects. Why do people still need our 7 soup kitchens, our medical posts, and our aid in paying electrical and water bills?

Recently I read a letter from Fr. Greg Schaffer, a New Ulm, MN, priest who has served more than 40 years in Guatemala. He says that corruption is the chief cause of the continual poverty in that Central American country. So it is in Peru, in our state of Ancash and in Chimbote itself. Public officials feel entitled to huge bribes and kickbacks on every project and are able to hide the illicit enrichment in secret bank accounts, many outside of Peru. That money belongs to the poor for their development.

In July we inaugurated a new president here in Peru, Ollanta Humala. One of his first acts on behalf of the working class was to raise the monthly minimum wage from 600 soles to 675 soles (a \$27.78 increase), and another increase is planned for January 1, 2012. These past months have been stressful, as our weekly funding from **Friends of Chimbote** has not increased as we struggle to meet the new wage laws. This year, it's especially crucial to increase our donations so that we can continue the services we offer to the poor as well as pay fair wages to our 86 workers. Sadly, every day, I have to tell people that I cannot respond to their needs.

In an attempt to increase the donations and sustain the positive effects they have on the people of Chimbote, we are holding two fundraising galas next fall that will replace many of the small gatherings that have taken place annually in the past. If you are interested in helping our efforts to alleviate poverty, please consider attending one of them. One will be in Minnesota on September 20<sup>th</sup> and another in North Dakota on September 27<sup>th</sup> -- save the date!

I have found inspiration recently in two excellent books: *UnPoverty* by Mark Lutz and *Mercy Without Borders* by Mark and Louise Zwick. I highly recommend them to you.

Please pray for me that I become a holy priest and my sister Jeannie may enjoy eternal life. May the Lord bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev.) John F. Davis

*May you all enjoy a  
most blessed Christmas*

I leave you with an Irish Blessing in this Thanksgiving season:

*I wish you not a path devoid of clouds, nor a life on a bed of Roses, not that you might never need regret, not that you should never feel pain. No, that is not my wish for you. My wish for you is: That you may be brave in times of trial, when others lay crosses upon your shoulders, when mountains must be climbed and chasms must be crossed, when hope scarcely can shine through, that every Gift God gave you might grow along with you, and let you give the gift of joy to all who care for you. That you may always have a friend who is worth that name: whom you can trust and who helps you in times of sadness, who will defy the storms of daily life at your side. One more wish I have for you: That in every hour of joy and pain you may feel God close to you. This is my wish for you and all who care for you. This is my hope for you; now and forever.*

**Because of Jeannie's death I don't have the time to write my note on each letter. I know you understand.**

## The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

### TODAY\* \*\*

Isaiah 9:1–6  
Titus 2:11–14  
Luke 2:1–14

### MONDAY

Matthew 10:17–22

“... the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

### TUESDAY

John 20:1A, 2–8

“... he saw and believed.”

### WEDNESDAY

Matthew 2:13–18

“Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

### THURSDAY

Luke 2:22–35

“... for my eyes have seen your salvation...”

### FRIDAY\* \*\*\*

Luke 2:22–40

“... the favor of God was upon him.”

### SATURDAY

John 1:1–18

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us...”

\*Alternate readings exist for this day.  
\*\*Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord  
\*\*\*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

## The Stories of Jesus and Santa

There are two stories we often hear about at this time of year. One involves Santa and the other is about Jesus.

Santa’s story can be heard in a song: *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*. In this song, we are told that Santa is a wonderful old man who brings gifts to those who are good. But only to those who are good. If you cry or pout, if you are nasty or bad—forget it! Santa is not coming to you.

We should, of course, strive to be as good as we can be. But the goodness found in Santa’s story is very different than the goodness referred to in Jesus’ story. In today’s Gospel, the angels announce that Jesus is the one who brings “joy to all the people.” Santa comes to those who are good. Jesus comes to all—both the good and bad alike.

What is revealed in the story of Jesus is that Christmas is not about our goodness. It is about God’s goodness and his grace. What we celebrate on this feast day is not the good things that we have done, but the great thing that God has done in Christ Jesus. Jesus’ story reveals the love of God, which is promised prior to any of our merits and present despite all of our sins.

So, unlike Santa, Jesus comes to us not because we are good, but because we need him—because we are sinful, broken, and weak. God’s love is not based on our accomplishments, but on his free choice. This is the basis of Christmas joy. *This is the Good News.*



### The Faith of the Church

Pope Pius XII marveled at the unity of the human race. All people share a common origin in God, a common nature of body and soul, a shared dwelling on this earth, and a singular supernatural end who is God. Moreover, all humans are united because Jesus came to lead all of us to God (Cf. *Summi Pontificatus*, #3).



### Questions of the Week

The Good News of Christmas is that Christ came to save all people. Thereby, Jesus challenges us to extend our love as wide as possible. God allows the sun to shine on both the good and the bad. Thus, we are called to love our enemies (see Matt 5:43–45).

#### Adults

*In light of God’s graciousness to me, what steps can I take to make peace with those who have offended me?*

#### Children

*Since Jesus has loved and forgiven me, how can I forgive others who have made fun of or hurt me?*

Visit us at [www.FaithFirst.com](http://www.FaithFirst.com) (click on “Gospel Reflections”) and share today’s Gospel reading as a family.

## Responding to God's Word . . .

Santa's news is that if you are good, you might receive a new computer or even a new car. Jesus' news is better. When we have sinned, failed, or been selfish, Jesus assures us that we can still receive the love of God, if we open our hearts. God's love can destroy evil. It is stronger than death itself.

If we borrowed Santa's melody, Jesus' song might go like this:

*There's no need to watch out.  
It's okay if you cry.  
You can sing or you can pout,  
I'm telling you why.  
Jesus Christ is coming to you.*

*He's forgotten his list.  
He forgives more than twice.  
He's the Lord of us all,  
both the naughty and nice.  
The Prince of Peace is coming  
to you.  
He sees you when you're sleeping.  
He knows when you're awake.  
He saves you if you're bad or good  
with a power no sin can break.  
So—put sadness aside.  
Let loose with a cry.  
There's no reason to hide,  
I'm telling you why.  
The Love of God is coming to you!*

## SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

**In the home.** During this holiday season, identify someone who is alienated from your family. Pray for him or her.

**In the workplace or in school.** Reflect upon someone who is dealing with loss or hardship in this joyful season. Find a way to show support.

**In the community.** Take a family member or friend and give time and energy to one of the many organizations that care for the poor or homeless.



## Meditation Moment

A parent attended a confirmation class for a teenage son. It was the fourth Sunday of Advent, so the teacher began the class with the lighting of the Advent wreath. After explaining that the fourth candle stands for Jesus, the teacher asked a boy to light the candle. Next a girl read, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out." Suddenly snickers came from the class as the flame started to go out. The father prayed, "Lord, don't let that flame go out. The symbolism is too important for these young people." All eyes watched as the flame slowly reversed itself and burned brightly.

### For reflection . . .

*What can I do to make the light of Christ burn more brightly in today's darkness?*

WELCOME JESUS AT CHRISTMASTIME,  
NOT IN A COLD MANGER OF OUR HEART . . .  
BUT WARM WITH LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

MOTHER TERESA

FROM *MISSION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

## A Prayer for Mercy

Gracious God, it is difficult to love as you love. You care for everyone you have made, the good and bad alike. When I experience hurt from others, I want to strike back. I do not want to forgive. In this holy season, enlarge my heart. As I accept your mercy, make me merciful to others.  
Amen.

*Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.*

But you, our God, are kind and true,  
Patient, and ruling all things in mercy.  
For even if we sin we are yours . . .

The Book of Wisdom 15:1-2

## Profile in Faith

### The Book of Wisdom

About one hundred years before Christ's birth, a Jew living in Alexandria composed the Book of Wisdom, which Catholics hold as inspired Scripture. This author draws upon the richness of the Jewish tradition to address the people of his own time. He stresses the universal power and mercy of God.

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