

Cup o' Joe

Weekly Reflections by Joseph Zenk, Parish Director

A nightly ritual at the Zenk house (aside from lots of kid noise, idle threats and incessant "time for bed!" proclamations coming from Renee and I) always includes a blessing from Renee and I over the children. And the blessing we use is the one we hear today in our first reading from the Book of Numbers.

Each evening, we place our hands on the heads of our children and say "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you. May the Lord be gracious unto you and give you peace." It may not be exactly the same blessing Aaron gave to the people, but it's pretty close. We've been doing it for the past few years and our kids have grown to look forward to it. In fact, in just the past six months, they have also begun to give that same blessing to Renee and I.

Lest this column fall victim to simply being a reflection on the evening habits of the Zenk household, let's recall that this weekend we celebrate the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. As a mother watches over and blesses her children, so, too, do we look to Mary to continue to watch over and bless us – her children.

The second reading states that "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son..." Mary lived within the fullness of that time. From the moment of her "yes" at the Feast of the Annunciation until the moment of Christ's birth, she lived in wonder, in hope, in questioning. But mostly she lived in trust. Trust that God could really accomplish in her what He had promised. Trust in Joseph, that he wouldn't turn her away when he found out about her pregnancy. Trust in herself, that she really could raise and be a mother to the Son of God. Only then, when her trust was complete – when that fullness had come – could the Son be born.

Brothers and sisters, Mary continues to be a mother to us, the Church. She watches over us, prays for us and yes, blesses us. And, just as she experienced in her life, she prays that the fullness of Christ's love and goodness will come to us. For only then can Christ be born anew within us. And only then can we, with the innocence of children, begin to bless one another.

CHRISTMAS LOVE ALL YEAR:

As many of you know, a few weeks ago I went to Haiti with an organization called "Food For the Poor." You will hear more about that in a future homily. However I would like you to take this time in the spirit of Christmas giving to think about sending a gift to a family of a third-world nation. There are catalogs on the counter in the north wing of church by the Human Concerns bulletin board which have different ideas for this giving through "Food For the Poor." You could send 20 chicks for \$25, or \$20 could buy a bag of rice & beans to feed 200 people. Prayerfully look through the gift catalog and share the idea with family or friends. Then listen to what the Holy Spirit encourages you to do.

Deacon Pat

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for all your cards and gifts celebrating the spirit of Christmas. I feel very humbled and blessed to serve in the parishes of Holy Rosary, St. Ann, and SS. Peter and Paul.
May God bless you all,
Deacon Pat Knier

CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES

Whether you are attending Holy Rosary, St. Ann or SS. Peter & Paul, you are welcome to drop off your envelope at whichever church you are attending that week. We have available at St. Ann and Holy Rosary extra pew envelopes for each other's parish. They are available in the entrances at each parish as you come into church. You may also use the envelopes in the pews, but please mark the envelope with your parish of membership

NOTES FROM OUR PARISH DIRECTOR:

LINKED PRAYER & WORSHIP MEETING

The next meeting of the Linked Prayer and Worship Committee will be on Tuesday, January 3 beginning at 5:30 at St. Ann (in their hall under the worship space). We will begin as one group and split into our own individual parish committees following our joint items.

BLESSING DURING EUCHARIST

The altar table is at the very center of every Catholic Church because it is the sign of our unity. As the song reminds us, all are welcome in this place. And while some are unable to partake of the Eucharist (for whatever reason), all are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing – young and old alike. So if you would like to receive a blessing (or have your children receive), simply come forward with your arms folded across your chest - this will let the Eucharistic Minister know your intent. Then simply receive the blessing of God and this community.

HOLY ROSARY BULLETIN BOARDS

You may have noticed that our bulletin boards look a bit differently this weekend. Recently, Joe Zenk and Pat Knier went throughout the building and, in an effort to make the entryways less cluttered and more organized, assigned different bulletin boards to different ministries within our church.

* The south entry way bulletin boards are designated for meeting minutes (parish council, finance council and board of trustees) and for any spiritual opportunities in our area (retreat centers, pilgrimages, etc.)

* The north entry way bulletin boards are designated for Human Concerns (St. Vincent de Paul, grief support groups, food pantries, etc) and for Divine Savior School.

* The main entry way (to the west of the church) bulletin boards are designated for Religious Ed & Youth Ministry; for vocations and for any area happenings within and around our community. Our hope is that this makes it easier to find particular happenings going on within and around our parish. Should you have any comments or questions regarding this action, please see Joe or Pat. Thank you.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Another year is dawning
With the chance to start anew.
May I be kinder, wiser, Lord,
In all I say and do.

Not so caught up in selfish gain
That I would fail to see
The things in life that mean the most
Cost not a fancy fee.

The warm, kind word that I can give,
The outstretched hand to help,
The prayers I pray for those in need--
More precious these than wealth.

I know not what may lie ahead
Of laughter or of tears;
I only need to know each day
That You are walking near.

I'm thankful for this brand new year
As now I humbly pray,
My hand secure in Yours, dear Lord,
Each step along the way.
Kay Hoffman

HOLY ROSARY PARISH NEWS

FUNERAL

Please remember in your prayers Dolores Fett and her family. Dolores' funeral was on Saturday. May she rest in peace.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Due to the holiday, there will be no Liturgy of the Word on Monday, January 2. The Parish Office will also be closed on Monday. Happy New Year!

MINISTER SCHEDULES

for January and February are available in the altar servers' side of the sacristy for you to pick up.

BOOK CLUB

The next Book Club meeting will be on January 11 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Life Center. Our featured book is *Parting Gifts* by Charlotte Vale Allen. New readers are always welcome. Contact Leslie Fredrich at 898-9042 with any questions.

POINSETTIA MEMORIAL TREE PLANTS

Thank you to everyone who donated a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one for the Poinsettia Trees. You may pick up your poinsettia plant after the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, January 8. After this date, the plants will be placed in the boy's sacristy for pickup until Monday, January 16. Those not picked up by January 16, will be donated to the nursing homes in New Holstein.

LOVE LIGHT TREE

Thank you to everyone who made a Love Light donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one. As you keep them in your hearts, we will keep them in our prayers throughout this new year.

'SPRING INTO CASH' RAFFLE

The 2012 'Spring Into Cash' Raffle is underway. We thank you for your past support and we hope we can count on you again. Tickets are available in the main wing of church this weekend for you to pick up. Additional tickets are also available for anyone hoping to sell a few extras. This fundraiser is a major part of our fundraising budget, so thank you in advance for your support.

SCRIP

Happy New Year and may God bless you and your family! Thank you for all your patronage this past year. Scrip is available this weekend after Masses. Scrip is also available during the week at M&I Bank during their regular bank hours.

HOLY ROSARY LITURGY MINISTERS - January 7 & 8		
	4:00 PM	10:30 AM
SERVERS	Casey Schmitz Megan Hickey Collin Scholz	Ethan Hartwig Quinten Gerhartz Mitchell Klotz
USHERS -N -M -S	Ron Schmitz Sara Luebke +Kevin Sippel	Jay Brandt +John Klinzing Denise Wiley
GREETERS-N -M -S	Ron & Kelly Schmitz Anna & Joe Baldwin Marge Reiser	Betsy Daun John Klinzing Dianne Dyer
HOST	Martha Whorrall Jim Petrie	Joan Nisler Mike Winter
WINE	Audry Heus Jeanne Karrels Ron Karrels Jean Baldwin	Linda Winter Leslie Fredrich Joan Kabat Ann Koenigs
LECTOR	Dolores Pethan	Diane Klotz
CANTOR	?	Toni Habermann
ORGANIST	Steve Hartmann	Jim Fett

ST. ANN PARISH NEWS

MISSION QUILTING

Quilting will begin on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 and will continue every Tuesday and Thursday through March from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Come all day or for a few hours. Bring scissors and a bag lunch; coffee and milk will be provided. Everyone is welcome to help. The quilts are donated to the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse in New Holstein. Quilting takes place at the home of Ken & Lydia Turba. For questions, call 894-3858.

SHARING SUNDAY

Today is our monthly drive for non-perishable food, toiletry items and paper products. Bins are available in the church entry and items collected will be donated to area food pantries.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS + POINSETTIA MEMORY TREE

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church and parish grounds for the Christmas season and those who made a donation in memory of a loved one for the Poinsettia Memory Tree. The plants are yours to take after Mass on January 8 to enjoy at home. Special thanks to the family of Melvin & Dorothy Schneider for the memorial in their name which will also cover the cost of the Christmas trees.

ROSARY & LITURGY OF THE WORD

During the winter months, the Rosary and Liturgy of the Word with communion will be celebrated in the Parish Center on Wednesday morning's beginning at 8:00 AM.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Please e-mail, call, or leave a message at the parish office with information to be included in the January newsletter by Tuesday, January 3. The newsletter will be mailed to parishioners in early January with contribution statements.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, January 3 – Linked Prayer & Worship Committee meeting at 5:30 PM at St. Ann Church Hall. The meeting will begin as one group and split into each individual parish committee following the joint items.

SCRIP

Gift cards and certificates can be purchased after Sunday Mass in the gathering room, by calling Jayne Engel at 894-3904 or at Citizens Bank in Kiel during business hours.

ST. ANN LITURGY MINISTERS – January 8

8:00 AM	
Greeters	Francis & Julia Thome
Lector	Lynette Mierzejewski
Host & Wine	Tim & Sue Mintner, Renee Keltesch, *Judy Thome
Servers	Calvin & Sara Winkel
Ushers	Steven Winkel, Larry Kempf
Gift Bearers	Dean Winkel Family

AREA HAPPENINGS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Looking for a weekend away, for just the two of you? A Marriage Encounter Weekend offers you this experience. It's a time to renew your relationship, away from the everyday distraction of life. It's an opportunity to strengthen your communication and promote greater intimacy in your life together. You don't need a Marriage Encounter Weekend, but you DESERVE one. "Discover Each Other Again", more deeply, honestly and warmly.

The upcoming schedule consists of February 10-12 or March 10-11 at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality in DePere. Spring weekend dates are also scheduled. For more information and to obtain an informational brochure, contact Sue & Dennis Amtmann, (920) 544-5166 or visit the website at www.gbme.org