



# The Voice of Nativity

Volume 18, Issue 2

February March April 2009

## LET'S TALK ABOUT CHANGING

Stephen was being buried when Saul continued on his journey to destroy the church. Saul entered house after house, dragging out men and women, and handed them over for imprisonment. (Acts 8: 3 NAB) Saul continued to make murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. (Acts 9: 1 NAB)

Saul believed he was on the path to what God wanted, so he did not stop to ask God. Nor did he stop to listen. God needed Saul to listen so a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. Saul fell **to the ground hearing: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul asked, " Who are you sir?" Then the reply came, " I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do."** (Acts 9:4-6NAB)

The people Saul traveled with heard what was said but saw nothing. Saul on the other hand could see nothing when he arose and did not eat or drink for 3 days.

Meanwhile, a disciple in Damascus named Ananias was told to go to Saul even though he knew of the **terrible things Saul had done. The Lord said, "Go for this is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before Gentiles, kings and Israelites, and I will show him what he will suffer for my name."** (Acts 9:15 NAB) **Saul was baptized, received the Holy Spirit and then regained his sight and appetite.**

Saul (his Semitic name) also known as Paul (his Greco-Roman name) filled with the Holy Spirit finally gave time to allow the Holy Spirit to guide and teach him.

## OUR CONVERSION

What does it take to slow us down enough to listen? Lent is our slow down, deliberately looking at our relationship with God. By changing routines to include an examination of conscience, prayer forms

like Stations of the Cross, and making an effort to become more connected with our community, we change our routine just enough to actually be aware of those things that need to be tweaked. Nativity offers opportunities to help.

## NATIVITY LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

### FAITH AND PRAYER

**Sunday February 22: "Sin as an Obstacles to Grace"**

Speaker: Fr. Kevin Boucher

**Monday February 23: "Grace as celebration!"**

Speaker: Fr. Kevin Boucher

Ash Wednesday February 25: 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm liturgy

Eucharistic Adoration Mondays all day and Tuesday mornings from 4:00 am to 7:30 am

Stations of the Cross Fridays in Lent

Prayer of Ignatius of Loyola Retreat: begins March 1

Facilitated by Sr. Andrea Arendt (\$90.00 suggested fee)

Parish Read: *Gateway to Resurrection or Seventy times Seven* (a deeper understanding of a format on Stations of the Cross) March 31

## COMMUNITY BUILDERS AND LIFESTYLE STRENGTHENING

Tuesday February 24: Mardi Gras Talent Show

Catholics Coming Home: Six Mondays in Lent

Friday Lenten Dinners: Knights of Columbus

February 28: Brunch and Learn: Compassionate

End of Life issues presented by Hospice Staff

March 28: Brunch and Learn: The advantage of planning funerals ahead of time Presented by Julie Twedt and Sr. Juliana Wisnewski

## RECONCILIATION

Communal Reconciliation April 2 at 7:00 pm

Individual Reconciliation:

Saturdays from 3:30-4:30 pm

Monday March 9 and Monday March 16 from 7:00-8:30 pm or Fridays March 20 and March 27 from 7:00-8:30 pm or by appointment.

Nativity Church of Fargo  
 Office Hours 8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
 Monday thru Friday  
 www.nativitycatholicchurch.net  
 Parish Office 232.2414  
 office@nativitycatholicchurch.net

### Church Staff

Fr. Kevin Boucher, pastor  
 Fr. Gary Luiten, associate pastor  
 Sr. Juliana Wisniewski,  
 pastoral minister  
 Judy Schwinghammer, parish nurse  
 Abby Rheault, liturgy & music  
 Lynn Stasch & Kellie Bruckbauer,  
 youth ministry  
 Chris Steffan, adult faith life  
 Kathy Bourdon, faith formation  
 Cathy Schwinden, social justice  
 Duane Koble, administration  
 Frank LaLonde, office manager  
 Bev Nesler, secretary  
 Renelda Hushka, bookkeeper

### Nativity School

School Office 232.7461  
 Cindy Hutchins, principal  
 Sue Thoreson, secretary

### Stewardship/Finance Council

Meets third Tuesday, five times a year.  
 Joe Buchl, John Ermer, Jess Helvik,  
 Patrick Kautzman, Mykal Nester,  
**Michael O'Leary, Rosemary Thomas**  
 Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Gary Luiten,  
 Duane Koble

### Pastoral Council

Meets fourth Tuesday of the month  
 Terri Dahl, Bev Nesler, Betty Hund,  
 Leon Senn, Bonnie Faller  
**Mike O'Leary, Mykal Nester, Kevin Wolf,**  
 Ken Jablonsky,  
 Greg Schmalz, Joe Miranowski  
 Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Gary Luiten,  
 Duane Koble,  
 Brenda Lang—recording secretary  
 Jean Hannig—Deanery Representative  
 Abby Rheault, Staff Representative  
 Chenise Nesler—Youth Representative  
 Ed Schwind—Member at large  
 Joel Simons—Member at large

### Voice Editorial Staff

Chris Steffan, Sandy Pearce  
 Frank Lalonde

The mission of the Voice flows from the mission of Nativity: to promote acceptance and growth within our community through education and evangelization. The Voice, therefore, will publish articles that have as their purpose evangelization and education of Nativity. We strive to bring vision and voice to identify God in our midst.

## FOCUS ON NATIVITY LEADERSHIP: THE STEWARDSHIP/FINANCIAL COUNCIL



Jess Helvik



Mike O'Leary  
 Chair, Corporate Lay  
 Treasurer



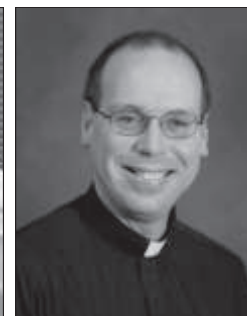
Fr. Kevin Boucher  
 Pastor



Rosemary Thomas



John Ermer



Fr. Gary Luiten  
 Associate Pastor



Mykal Nester  
 Council and Corporate  
 Lay Secretary



Joe Buchl



Duane Koble  
 Director of  
 Administration

Not Pictured: Patrick Kautzman

### Parish Stewardship/Finance Council

Viewing one's baptismal call as a time to offer one's gifts in God's service, the parish members actively involved on the Stewardship Council would ask all to support parish ministries. Members of this council review and assist in preparation of the budget, develop new ways to promote the principles of leadership to the parish, assist the Director of Administration and the Pastor in funding the ministries and operations of the parish and assist in development efforts and building projects. The Stewardship Council meets five times a year.

# AN OPEN LETTER FROM FR. KEVIN BOUCHER

## UNITY AND GRACE

My dear friends in Christ,

As I write this article we are in the beginning of the **"Week of Prayer for Christian Unity."** Our ecumenical service this year centered on a text from the Prophet Ezekiel in which he is speaking to a people of who have been divided into two kingdoms. God commands the people to take two staffs, or sticks, representing each of the kingdoms and bind them together. This represents what God will do in binding these two kingdoms into one united body. The effect of this bond strengthened the people of Israel as they **continued on their journey as God's people**

Centuries later this symbol of the binding of two sticks received new meaning when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was lifted up on a wooden cross. This selfless act of a loving God who gave his life for his people is the source of grace that reunited earth with heaven ending the centuries of separation from God which was the consequence of human sin.

We are now entering the Season of Lent and the cross is the central symbol of the season. We are invited in many ways to reflect on the meaning of that cross through our worship experiences. Beginning with Ash Wednesday the cross is signed on our foreheads **with ashes created from the palms of last year's** Passion Sunday procession in which we entered **into the week of celebrating the Lord's passion, death and resurrection.**

**Each week, on Fridays, the day of the Lord's** passion, we also reflect on the suffering our Lord endured as we pray the Stations of the Cross. We encourage you to make this ancient prayer a part of your personal prayer life during the season.

The Season of Lent provides us with opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal. Our weekly Stations of the Cross are a reminder to us of the **life-saving action of the Lord's passion.** Prayerfully entering into this mystery we are struck with awe at the great love our Lord has for us, a love in

which he suffered the pain and humiliation of rejection by his friends, and the agony of crucifixion.

Our Sunday scriptures remind us also of the symbolism of the cross as uniting us to God. The First Sunday we hear of the first covenant when God placed the rainbow in the sky after the great flood as a sign of his fidelity to us. The Second Sunday, in the transfiguration, three apostles are **given a "sneak preview" of the risen Lord in seeing Christ's glorified body, and a prefiguring of the** unity we will experience on the resurrection on the

last day. On the Third Sunday of Lent we read of Jesus cleansing the sign of unity between God and the people of Israel, the temple in Jerusalem. The Fourth Sunday we are reminded of the serpent on a **pole being "lifted up" as a sign of God's promise to save all who** believe. On the Fifth Sunday Jesus teaches us the most important sign of our unity with God, this sign being placed on our hearts, the willingness to love and serve one another as God has loved and served us in the person of Jesus Christ. All of these symbols of unity with God receive their fullest expression as we once again move into the holiest week of the entire year culminating with our Easter

celebrations.

My prayer for you, as we walk on together in this great season of grace, is that you will experience a deeper union with the God who made us and loves us. May you know the love of God as you have never known it before.



## A NEW ASSIGNMENT

# DEACON DAVE OPSAHL AND HIS JOURNEY TO ORDINATION

My name is Deacon Dave Opsahl. I was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on November 15, 2008. Karen and I have been members of Nativity for 32 years. We have two adult children: Kristine and Dana. Kristine lives in Atlanta and her two adult children; Thomas and Brianna live in Fargo. Dana and his wife Rebecca live in South Fargo with their two sons, David (8) and Levi (2).

**I am writing this article on the Feast Day of the Church's first deacon and martyr, St. Stephen.** In the year 33, he enraged his enemies by spreading the Good News about Jesus Christ. As he was being stoned, Stephen prayed that the Lord receive his soul and asked Christ to forgive his attackers.



Deacons have been a part of Church life since her earliest days. The person best suited to succeed the Bishop was his primary assistant, the deacon. Around the eighth century, the order of deacons became a temporary or transitional stage that a man went through on his way to ordination as a priest.

Vatican II called for the permanent diaconate be restored in the Latin Church and renewed in the Eastern Catholic Churches. Today the diaconate exists in both forms. I am the 5th Permanent Deacon to serve Nativity since 1978.

If the Bishop decides that a person may have a vocation

to the diaconate, he will be admitted into a formal period of discernment, called 'aspirancy'. During this period of prayer, study and personal formation, a man and his family reflect on the nature of ordained ministry. Following this the bishop may ask the man to pursue additional human, spiritual, academic and pastoral formation, as a formal candidate for possible ordination. The 5 year period of formation involves significant coursework in theology, scripture studies, homiletics and Church History. Following ordination, deacons are required to continue their formation through annual retreats and regular formation opportunities.

Forty-two permanent deacons serve parishes in Eastern North Dakota. Deacons in the Diocese of Fargo participate in nursing home care, ministry to the sick and homebound, jail ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, marriage preparation, alcohol and drug abuse ministry, peer counseling, Habitat for Humanity, wake and funeral services, baptisms, RCIA, and other Episcopal ministries.

Most Permanent deacons are married, thus his first vocation is his wife and family. Karen has walked every step with me through the formation process. It was not an easy journey for her to undertake and I am eternally grateful **for her 'yes.'** Our children and grandchildren have been very supportive and understanding during the events that we missed with them. I **trust in God's providence, for we have already been richly rewarded.**

A deacon should be the animator and promoter of what the community of faith must be, a **community of service. A deacon's task is to empower lay ministry, not to replace it.** Nor, I am not here to replace any staff member, but to compliment them in their ministry. We have **a very large parish family at Nativity and we're always in need of more workers for the harvest that Christ has sent us to reap.**

Karen and I wish to thank all of you for your support through the diaconate formation process. Your notes and words of affirmation inspired us to persevere in the calling that God gave us. May God bless you all!

## JOINING TOGETHER TO UNDERSTAND

### “WALK ON WITH A BACKPACK OF GRACE DURING LENT

#### PARISH READ: *GATEWAY TO RESURRECTION*

*Gateway to Resurrection*, by S. Joan Chittister, is a walking journey through The Stations of the Cross.

Here is Sister Joan's introduction to the booklet: "The Stations of the Cross, unlike many traditional private devotions, are not designed to beg God for favors or graces or special attention of any kind. They are instead simply an excursion through the hard moments of life as those periods demonstrated in

the life of Jesus himself. The Stations of the Cross remain universally popular throughout the ages not because they concentrate on suffering, surely, but because they give us a model of how to live life when our own suffering is unavoidable and life seems most impossible. Then, knowing that Jesus has gone the way of injustice, fatigue, failure and defeat before us, gives our own present difficulties both a new light and new hope. We pray The Stations of the Cross in both good times and bad in order to learn how to live and to remember that when the dark days come we are not alone in them."

We welcome everyone in our parish to join in our Lenten Parish Read. You are invited to read the booklet during Lent and join in the parish discussion on Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 pm. Booklets will be made available for all of those interested. Contact the parish office to secure your copy. 232-2414. A free will offering will be accepted for the purchase of the booklets, in which a percentage of the profit will go to the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Nairobi, Kenya and their work with the African poor.

By Kathy Bourdon

## WELCOME HOME!

Walking back into the Catholic Church doesn't need to be intimidating. The Catholics Coming Home Ministry is here for you. We invite you to join in our process of reflection on your relationship with the Church. This ministry is not intended to pull you back into Church, but to invite you to consider that possibility. God meets us wherever we are on our faith journey. Our pray is that your journey leads you to our Catholics Coming Home series during Lent.

Throughout the six-week series, you are invited to share your thoughts and reflections about the Catholic Church and your thoughts about returning. Based on input from thousands who have participated in this ministry over the years, we have put together a curriculum in an adult

format that we feel will help you reassess your own spirituality and the teachings of the Church. After attending these sessions, many feel they can return to active participation in the Church; others who regularly attend Mass feel they understand more clearly what it means to be Catholic.

Individuals are drawn to Catholics Coming Home for different reasons. It may be to update their understanding of faith, or there may be serious issues that are painful to discuss. Some have been wounded by their Church experiences. We are here for you; we are here to listen.

We do not have answers for all questions, nor can we undo the hurt that has occurred. We can only offer hope and information,

acceptance and reassurance. We are here to assist you in your journey back to the Church. Our ministry is steeped in respect and confidentiality.

Our sessions will be for 6 Mondays during the Lenten Season starting on March 2 and ending on April 6, 2009. 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Nativity Church.

It is our primary hope that this connection with the Church, for whatever reasons bring you to the sessions, will result in an **increased awareness of God's love** for you. We pray that you will join us.

By Linda Bosch

## CAN YOU SEE YOURSELF AS JESUS' CHOSEN ONE?



### PROCLAIMERS...

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Proclaiming the Word of God is what we ask those participating in this ministry to do. It is more than reading; it is bringing the story alive to those of us hearing the Word of God.

Nativity has many who volunteer as Proclaimers. We have 76 who actively participate in that ministry.

### THANK YOU



### CALLED TO PROCLAIM

By Robert Melevin

#### WHO ME?

Yes, I call—you—my chosen one;  
I call—you—my mirror, my reflection;  
I call—you—to proclaim the name above all others;  
I call—you—to see, to serve, to love.

#### DO WHAT?

Sow seeds, of my Word planted deep;  
Open hearts, to the Word made flesh;  
Speak truth, of the lover who dies for his beloved;  
Live the story, as lovers and dreamers of a world reborn.

#### WITH WHOM?

My Spirit, who sets hearts afire;  
Teachers and companions who journey to Emmaus;  
Saints and heroes, who stand the test of timeless faith;  
Popes and bishops, who authenticate and preserve.

#### AND HOW?

Accept silence, let my Word speak;  
Seek kinship, dare to be known;  
Risk love, embrace the other;  
Share Eucharist, be blessed and broken.

#### AS WHO:

A humble footwisher  
A risk taker  
A wounded healer  
A silent listener  
A prophet for peace and justice  
A faithful servant.

#### WITH WHAT?

The fire of Sacred texts  
The earth of Tradition  
The wind of spoken eloquence  
The ageless power which transforms.

#### AND SO?

Be my catechist!

## DEVOTIONS

### THE ROSARY: PRAY FOR PEACE DAILY

Praise and thanks be to God that the majority of us humans have or have had mothers who love us unconditionally. In my case—to sense—feel—and know of this unconditional love is a reference **point from which I begin to know of God's love** for each and everyone of us. It is our heavenly Mother Mary I wish to honor by saying a few words about the Rosary devotion as we approach the Lenten season.

Growing up I was able to attend parochial school in a small town. My love for Mary and the Rosary began during watching the movie "The Song of **Bernadette.**" **In that movie, Mary asked us all to pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world and the conversion of sinners.** As a young child I felt this was a very important mission and throughout my life that has not changed. Praying to Jesus through Mary has been a lifelong practice and what has gotten me through good times and bad times. Just holding the Rosary has gotten me through fearful times. It helps me to sleep at night when I am having difficulty, and more.

One of the privileges I have being one of the parish nurses at Nativity is leading the Rosary at Manor Care a couple of times a month. There are usually four or more mature ladies and one

**gentleman who come faithfully. I can't tell you exactly why, but I really enjoy being with them for that half hour or so.** There is a handmade ceramic statue of Mary that we bring out and set on a table before we begin. Two of them are converts so they did not know about the Rosary until they were married and the others used to pray it daily with their families during Advent and Lent.

It seemed for a few years, that the Rosary was an old devotion not practiced by many—but what was once old has become new again. In our area the Rosary is said either before or after daily Mass at the various churches. All are invited to attend.

We thank you Mary, Mother of God, for always being there for us and loving us unconditionally.  
By Judy Schwinghammer, Parish Nurse

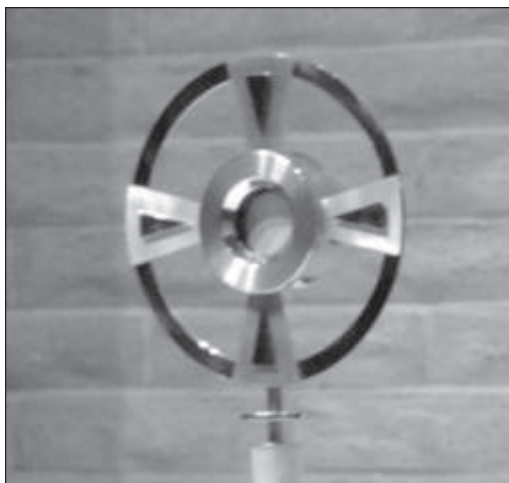
Did you know that people can forget many things as they age, but they rarely forget their prayers. People who are on their last days may not recognize anyone, nor may they carry on any conversations, but they may be quietly, with their last breaths, saying prayers. Caregivers remark that the prayers **they hear may be in the language of dying person's youth** if the person grew up speaking another language.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

February 2, The Presentation of the Lord, was the day 40 people joined Fr. Kevin Boucher in praying in the real presence of our Lord at Eucharistic Adoration. Fr. Kevin presided at the Evening Prayer and then gave instruction concerning the history and practice of Eucharistic Adoration. Concluding the evening prayer, the group was encouraged to sign up on the schedule for an hour of prayer if not already on the schedule.

If Eucharistic Adoration is something you would like to experience, please contact Terri Dahl (235-8980) for more information.

By Chris Steffan



Experience the Real Presence of God in Eucharistic Adoration.

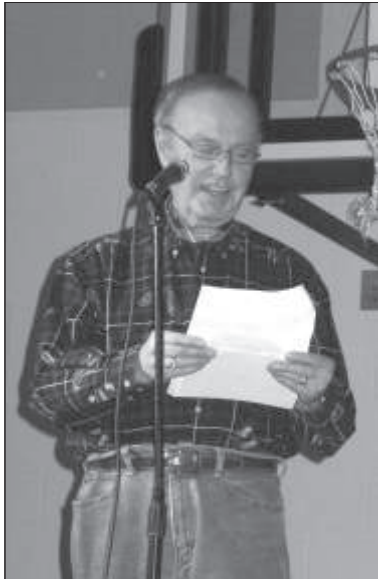
Eucharistic  
Communal  
Adoration  
Monday 8:30 am to  
10:30 pm  
Tuesday 4:00 am to  
7:30 am

Rosary  
Monday through  
Friday 8:35 am

Eucharistic Chapel  
is open for prayer  
daily.

# MARDI GRAS, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24 AT 6:30 IN THE NATIVITY GYM

## REMEMBER HOW MUCH FUN YOU HAD LAST YEAR?



Nativity Youth will be hosting the second annual Mardi Gras Talent Show Tuesday, February 24 at 6:30 pm in the Nativity Gym!

Do you have a 5 minute act that you could share? Last year acts were musical, short skits, and comedy. All ages entertained us with their talents.

If you would like more information or would like to perform for Mardi Gras, please contact Lynn Stasch or Kellie Bruckbauer at 232-2414 ext. 137 or email [kellieb@nativitycatholicchurch.net](mailto:kellieb@nativitycatholicchurch.net) [lynns@nativitycatholicchurch.net](mailto:lynns@nativitycatholicchurch.net)

So much fun, so little time!



# PRAYER METHODS

## IGNATIUS PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

Nativity is offering The Prayer of Ignatius of Loyola Retreat for Lent. The prayer method will ask for a commitment of 15 to 30 minutes prayer each day and a weekly session with a group of others making the "retreat".

Facilitated by Sr Andrea Arendt, this class could be the experience in prayer that you are looking for.

Class meets the six Sundays of Lent beginning March 1 in the Bethlehem Room from 2-3:30 pm.

### WHAT AM I GETTING MYSELF INTO?

According to the WEBPrayer Handbook ([www.msgr.ca/msgr/WEBPrayerHandbook\\_4\\_ignation\\_prayer.htm](http://www.msgr.ca/msgr/WEBPrayerHandbook_4_ignation_prayer.htm)) the Ignatian Method of prayer places oneself in the Biblical scene where you become a part of it by way of your imagination. Try to imagine what you might see. . . what you might hear. . . and what the persons in the scene might be doing. At each point in the contemplation, try to draw some practical fruit from the reflection for your own life today. What changes and challenges does your reflection on the event furnish?

When studying, you may find certain passages useful. Write down the reference in your prayer journal and look it up. Read it several times and reflect on it. When the passage lends

itself to an imaginative reflection, listen to what God has to say to you.

A deliberate effort is made to develop hope and trust and to

look on the optimistic side of the Good News of the Gospel. According to the Web Prayer Handbook, frequent meditation on the Resurrection of Jesus rather than constant recall of the Passion and Death is recommended.

This prayer method is beneficial to those who enjoy concentrating on concrete principles, things

that can be understood by the five senses. This is a practical look at scripture and what would have happened.

You are projected into different scenes in the life of Jesus and are able to reflect on these scenes by thinking in terms of seeing, hearing, smelling and such—the realities of life.

Prayer methods need to be chosen as a match for our personal temperament. If this one sounds like it would fit your temperament, please join. There is a suggested cost for this "Lenten retreat" that can be taken care of when registering with Kathy Bourdon.



Nativity Knights of Columbus

Invite you to

Lenten Fish Dinners  
5:00-6:30pm  
At Nativity In the Cafeteria

Fridays  
February 27  
March 6  
March 13  
March 20  
March 27

Other opportunities:  
Friday  
Stations of the Cross  
6:30 pm

Individual  
Sacrament of  
Reconciliation  
March 20 & March 27  
From 7:00-8:30 pm

**“WALK ON IN GRACE ...”**  
PREPARING FOR OUR  
LENTEN JOURNEY 2009  
*“My grace is sufficient for you.”*  
2 Cor: 12:9

**MINI RETREAT:**

Presenter: Fr. Kevin Boucher  
7:00 pm, Nativity Church  
Sunday, February 22: **“Sin as an Obstacle to Grace”**  
Monday, February 23: **“Grace as Celebration!”**  
Childcare is available on Sunday and Monday nights –  
Reservations for childcare are required.  
Call the Church Office by February 18. 232-2414

**“MARDI GRAS TALENT SHOW”**

Tuesday, February 24 6:30pm Nativity Gym  
All Nativity parishioners show their talents,  
fun and treats galore!

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday, February 25  
Liturgies with distribution of ashes: 7:00 & 8:00 am,  
1:30 & 6:30 pm



**THE POWER OF SACRAMENTS  
FOR THE JOURNEY**

While we celebrate with those who were received into full communion with the Catholic Church this past January, we are actively helping prepare six young people to receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist at Easter Vigil this coming April 11 at 8:30 pm. The young people receiving the Initiation Sacraments are those who have reached the age of reason and choose to be baptized. The ages range from around 7 to 18. These young people have been in active preparation on Sundays with their classroom catechist, Pam Appel, and their dismissal catechist, Deb Boyer, since the beginning of October. Each has been involved in learning about Jesus and the Church in age appropriate ways. Sponsors volunteer to mentor the young people. This concept of apprenticeship is one that recognizes that everyone is an example, and has an influence on the lives of others. It is that concept that is also reflected when we have speakers representing the various ministries of Nativity come and explain the ministries.

**HIGHLIGHTS FOR CATECHUMENS:**

Sunday March 8 at 3:00 pm at St. Mary's

**RITE OF ELECTION**

Following this our catechumens will be referred to as the Elect.

**EASTER VIGIL: 8:30 PM APRIL 11**

April 26 is also an exciting time for the baptized adult preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church at the 10:45 liturgy, as well as the 52 young people preparing to be confirmed at a 1:30 liturgy. Because the Bishop will have confirmation here at 1:30 pm, the 12:15 liturgy will not be held.

By Chris Steffan

## GIFTS WE GIVE TO OUR FAMILY

### ETHICS OF CARE FOR THE SICK & DYING

Fr. Dale Kinzler, Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Devils Lake presented a Brunch and Learn, talking about end of life issues. To a crowd of around 60 people, Fr. Dale shared wisdom from the Catechism and from his ethics training that will help people open up a dialogue with those who may care for them.



given as a resource for more information. Judy Schwinghammer, our parish nurse, would be happy to work with anyone to help understand questions concerning caring for those challenged with illness.

By Chris Steffan



The importance of designating a Health Care agent was stressed. As well, Health Care Directives were discussed. Several forms of Health Care Directives were given to those who were attending. The North Dakota Catholic Conference ([www.ndcatholic.org](http://www.ndcatholic.org)) was



Hospice staff Joan Gronso and Cheryl Link will present next Brunch and Learn.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF PLANNING FOR FUNERALS AHEAD OF TIME

Sometimes we are frightened about things we do not know enough about. When we receive accurate information the knowledge sets us free. When I was growing up, we often visited the cemetery and talked about the lives of our grandparents and the neighbors who had died. Some stories were happy and others sad but they were all very real. Our funeral director was so kind that no one seemed frightened of him. He seemed to communicate a peaceful spirit. That really helped us not to be afraid.

On Saturday, March 28, we will have an opportunity to learn more about planning for funerals ahead of time. We will be able to hear information and ask any questions that come to mind. Julie Twedt, Certified Pre-Planning Consultant and Grief Support Coordinator for Boulger's Funeral Home, will be the

presenter. Those who have heard her previously say she has a lot of information to share and does it in a delightful manner. There is a complimentary healthy brunch at 10AM followed by the presentation and you will be on your way home by noon. All activities are in the Nativity Cafeteria. Call Judy Schwinghammer, Parish Nurse at 232-2414 EXT.121 if you can attend so we have an idea as to how many to plan for. Bring your family and parish friends.

Numbers of people here at our parish have pre-planned their funerals over the past years. Included in this process have been thinking about songs, scripture readings and people who are important to them. Listen to a few of the comments of some of our parishioners who have gone through the process: **"I did it because I did not have children and my niece would**

**know exactly what I wanted."**  
**" We did it partly because we wanted something to say. This was US. Also sometime back we had experienced a pre-planned funeral and it was easier for the family. At the actual time of death you are not really thinking clearly."** (a couple)

**"We wanted to do this before the time comes. We have had parents, aunt, uncle, brother whose funerals we have prepared after their death. It seems so much easier to really know what the person wanted read or sung."** (another couple)

You are welcome to attend.

By Sr. Juliana Wisnewski

# STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

## GREEN TEAM! RECYCLE, GREEN TEAM! RECYCLE, GREEN TEAM! RECYCLE!

Recently I was reading the alumni newsletter from the college I graduated from many years ago now and I was impressed to read a beautiful article about how St. Francis is known as the Patron of Ecology. Indeed he had a great love for "Mother Earth" and having a little garden in his memory on our campus grounds, we ought to have a great love for the earth and teach the next generations to do the same in respecting and caring for it.

A small invitation in a weekly bulletin several months ago, brought forth 7 parish members within a matter of days to help begin a Green Project here at the church offices to recycle shredded paper, extra bulletins, cardboard, empty wine bottles. Thanks to Pat Colliton, Lorr and Al Evert, Cliff Johnson, Susan McCullough, **Ann Rotunda and Mike O'Leary for their offer to help save the world.**

You will be reading more about recycling opportunities as the days and weeks come and go. Look under the RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE heading in the bulletin for little workable ideas and factual information. **If you have a "Green Story" share it with us.**

When I was 5 or 6 years old I remember our Mother taking the string from a 100# sack of flour and saying to me, "Take this string and wind it on the string ball. Someday we will have a shortage of string." Then there were the paper bags from the store. We heard the same idea, "Take the paper bags and fold them up nicely so we can use them again. Someday we will have a shortage of paper bags." Years later I smiled as the grocery store offered to credit us 5 cents if we brought back our paper bags. Now we can get a refund if we use cloth bags as we shop. Do you have a recyclable bag for shopping? If not, let us know. We have some at the church that were not used at our Fall Health Fair.

So what can I do? Do you get the daily paper? What happens to it when you are done reading?

By Sr. Juliana Wisnewski

Want Ad:

### Nativity "Green Team"

Advocates for recycling, reducing global warming, developing new energy resources and caring for God's creation are sought to form a team to help educate and motivate our parish and beyond. Contact Cathy Schwinden (232-2414- ext 136) -

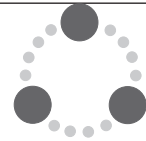
## WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO?

Just sort and separate recyclables into paper sacks or cardboard boxes. Bring the recyclables listed on the recycling guide to any of the MinnKota Recycling Centers listed. We will issue a check for the weight of the **recyclables at a " Penny per Pound".**

**If it's less than \$2.00** we will provide you with a redemption card so that you can accumulate weight up to 200 pounds prior to receiving a check. You can donate your recyclables to a charity registered with MinnKota Recycling. Donations are very important to local charitable organizations. **One man's trash is another man's treasure.**

### Why Recycle?

The common goal intended is to capture more material by placing a redemption value on recyclables. Americans generate just under 5 pounds of trash per day so we encourage you to recycle what you **can. Remember, it doesn't** just save landfills, it saves valuable resources.



**MinnKota**  
RECYCLING

For more information  
call  
800-726-3164  
Website:  
[www.minnkota.biz](http://www.minnkota.biz)

**YOUR RECYCLABLES  
ARE MORE VALUABLE  
THAN EVER...**

Earn a penny a pound  
for recyclables that are  
delivered to the  
redemption center.

*Where?*  
901 4<sup>th</sup> Ave N  
M-F 9 - 5  
Sat. 9 - 3

3510 S University Dr  
Fargo, North Dakota  
Th - Fr -10-6  
Sat. 9 - 3

1321 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N  
Moorhead, Minnesota  
T-F 9 - 5  
Sat 9 - 3

# RECYCLING GUIDE

MINNKOTA NOW PAYS 1 CENT PER POUND FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

## NEWSPAPERS

### ACCEPTABLE:

Newspaper, shoppers & anything that is delivered in the newspaper, including glossy inserts

### UNACCEPTABLE

Egg cartons, phone books and large catalogs with glue bindings such as Sears & JC Penney.

### PREPARATION:

Place newspapers in a brown paper bag or cardboard box.

## TIN CANS

### ACCEPTABLE

Steel and Tin cans

### UNACCEPTABLE

Scrap metal (car parts, iron & steel) razor blades, tin foil, nails, rusty cans, aerosol cans

### PREPARATION:

Please rinse cans. Labels do not have to be removed from the tin cans.  
Please place the lid inside the can or bend the lid inside the can.  
Steel or tin cans can be mixed together in a brown paper bag

[www.minnkota.biz](http://www.minnkota.biz)

MinnKota will pay 1 cent per pound...Just say that it is for Nativity!

## SORTED PAPER

### ACCEPTABLE

White or pastel colored bond paper, typing paper, index cards, and envelopes with or without windows, premium bond computer paper and sorted junk mail.

### UNACCEPTABLE

No dark tone or neon colored paper or construction paper.

### PREPARATION

Paper can be placed in a brown paper bag. Or lay them flat in a cardboard box.

## #1 AND #2 PLASTIC BOTTLES WITH A NECK

### ACCEPTABLE:

#1 & #2 plastic bottles with a neck (meaning it is smaller at the top than it is on the bottom.) These include soda, milk, detergent, and shampoo bottles. Check for recycling symbols on containers

### UNACCEPTABLE

Motor oil, vegetable oil or antifreeze bottles, yogurt or cottage cheese containers, margarine tubs, ice cream pails, plastic bags, toys and any container numbered #3-#7

### PREPARATION

Please rinse all bottles and remove caps and lids. Place plastic bottles in a brown paper bag.

## MAGAZINES

### ACCEPTABLE

Magazine, small catalogs & similar printed materials with glossy pages.

### UNACCEPTABLE

Office paper, egg cartons, phone books and large catalogs with glue bindings such as Sears & JC Penney

### PREPARATION:

Magazines can be placed in a brown paper bag. Or lay them flat in a cardboard box.

ST. FRANCIS, PATRON OF ECOLOGY, PRAY FOR US.



Picture adapted from one at [www.Franciscan.org](http://www.Franciscan.org)

Readings for the Week of February 15, 2009

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31---11:1/Mk 1:40-45  
 Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13  
 Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21  
 Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Mk 8:22-26  
 Thursday: Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33  
 Friday: Gn 11:1-9/Mk 8:34---9:1  
 Saturday: Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13

Readings for the Week of February 22, 2009

Sunday: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/  
 Mk 2:1-12  
 Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29  
 Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Mk 9:30-37  
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20---6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25  
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15  
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

Readings for the week of March 1, 2009

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

Readings for the week of March 8, 2009

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10  
 Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38  
 Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12  
 Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28  
 Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31  
 Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/ Mt 21:33-43, 45-46  
 Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Readings for the week of March 15, 2009

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25  
 Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Lk 4:24-30  
 Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35  
 Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19  
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a (St. Joseph)  
 Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34  
 Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14

Readings for the week of March 22, 2009

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21  
 Monday: Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54  
 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16  
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38 (Annunciation)  
 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47  
 Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53

SCRIPTURE READINGS  
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Readings for the week of March 29, 2009

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33  
 Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Jn 8:1-11  
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30  
 Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42  
 Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59  
 Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42  
 Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56

Readings for the week of April 5, 2009

Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 /Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1---15:47 or 15:1-39  
 Monday: Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11  
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25  
 Thursday: Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21  
 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15  
 Friday: Is 52:13---53:12/ Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1---19:42  
 Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1---2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ex 14:15---15:1/Is 54:5-14/ Is 55:1-11/Bar 3:9-15, 32,4:4/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Rom 6:3-11/ Mk 16:1-7

Readings for the week of April 12, 2009

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7  
 Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15  
 Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18  
 Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35  
 Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48  
 Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14  
 Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15

Readings for the week of April 19, 2009

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31  
 Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8  
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15  
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21  
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36  
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15  
 Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20

Readings for the week of April 26, 2009

Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48  
 Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Jn 6:22-29  
 Tuesday: Acts 7:51---8:1a/Jn 6:30-35  
 Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Jn 6:35-40  
 Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Jn 6:44-51  
 Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Jn 6:52-59 or St. Joseph the Worker: Gn 1:26---2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/Mt 13:54-58  
 Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Jn 6:60-69

## STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE WANT ADS

### WHAT IF JESUS WROTE A WANT AD?

#### NAZARETH MASTER CARPENTER SEEKS HIGHLY MOTIVATED FIELD WORKERS

for human relations positions

Responsibilities: Bring glad tidings to the lowly

Heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to captives and release to prisoners, sow **seeds, feed lambs (and find lost ones), light lamp and fires, invest "talents", pray** constantly

Qualifications: Ideal candidates should strive to be poor in spirit, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers, willing to sit in the lowest place, and seek to possess patience, kindness, hope, perseverance, generosity, gratitude, and a hunger and thirst for justice

Compensation and Benefits – both immediate and eternal.

Application: Resume already known to employer; Acknowledge personal skills and talents and contact any of the groups listed.

## WE ARE THE HANDS AND FEET OF GOD. PLEASE JOIN US IN SHARING IN THE CARING.

### THE GIVING AND LEARNING PROGRAM: MENTORING NEW AMERICANS TO SUCCEED

New Americans need mentors to help improve their English skills - speaking, reading and writing.

Call 701-271-7549 or go to [www.givinglearning.org](http://www.givinglearning.org).

### BIRTHRIGHT OF FARGO-MOORHEAD

Help is needed in variety of areas – answering phones and working directly with clients, office help, organizing donated baby and maternity clothes, etc. Call Harriett at 701-237-0359.

### THE F-M DOROTHY DAY HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

The food pantry needs help, usually from about 6:30-8:30pm Monday through Thursday. They can also use help during the day with organizing, stocking shelves, light cleaning, etc. Contact Brandee at 218-790-1048 or at [fmddh.foodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:fmddh.foodpantry@gmail.com).

### CHARISM

This community center reaches out to its neighbors in need, especially children who are new Americans. tutoring in English, delivering supplemental groceries and helping out with special events are opportunities to be involved. Contact 701-241-8570 or go to [www.charism.org](http://www.charism.org) for more information.

### SALVATION ARMY

Nativity serves one meal each month – no cooking skills required. This is an excellent opportunity to involve the whole family. Call Renae McArthur if you can help – 293-7399.

### CHURCHES UNITED FOR THE HOMELESS

Meal serving, as well as a variety of work, is available. Call Joann Peterson 232-4584 for more information.

### NATIVITY FAITH FORMATION

- Helpers needed to Walk With Children on their Journey of Faith – Sunday mornings for preschool age and Wednesday evenings for elementary age .
- Helpers needed to Walk With Children on their path toward Confirmation and First Eucharist – 2 Wednesday evenings and 1 Sunday afternoon.
- Helpers needed to Clean Up and Lock Up after Faith Formation sessions on Wednesday evenings. Contact Kathy Bourdon at Nativity – 232-2414- or at [kathyb@nativitycatholicchurch.net](mailto:kathyb@nativitycatholicchurch.net).

### NATIVITY FAITH LIFE

- Adult choir members, as well as ushers, altar servers, proclaimers and Eucharistic Ministers for the 12:15 liturgy needed. Contact Abby Rheault – 232-2414 or at [abbyn@nativitycatholicchurch.net](mailto:abbyn@nativitycatholicchurch.net).
- Communion ministers to the sick at MeritCare South once a month. Contact Sr. Juliana at 232-2414 or at [julianaw@nativitycatholicchurch.net](mailto:julianaw@nativitycatholicchurch.net).

By Cathy Schwinden

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Fargo ND 58103

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## A PRAYER FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN LENT

Creator of our race, inventor of all our diverse ways, praise be yours for the wonders heard and the wonders seen when the gospel met and mingled with the Celtic people and took root in Patrick and Brigid and Columba. Praise for their poetry and song, the new ways to be the church that filled that island and overflowed to renew the weary church of Rome. In these days of Lent may such a spirit be ours—that we may clearly see and welcome with all we are our ever-frightening Passover in Jesus the Christ who is Lord for ever and ever.

By Gabe Huck

## “WALK ON WITH A BACKPACK OF GRACE”

