

# Connections...

## November 25, 2001 — Christ the King

✦ *The criminal said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*

Luke 22:35-43

### But is it art—and why isn't it?

A feisty little old lady was part of a group touring an exhibition of modern art at a newly opened gallery.

One of the contemporary paintings caught her eye. She asked the tour guide, "What on earth is that?"

The guide smiled condescendingly, "That, dear lady, is supposed to be a mother and child."

"Well, then," snapped the little old lady, "why isn't it?"

**CONNECTION:** Today's final Sunday of the liturgical year poses a similar set of questions to all of us who claim to be disciples of Jesus: Why aren't we? As we remember the "King" who suffered the passion of the cross so that he might rise from the dead for us: Why do we fail to remember? As we shuffle back to our cars after feasting on the bread of heaven: Why did we come here? If we believe that Christ is indeed our "King" (or Master or Lord or whatever title with which we choose to think of him), why do other "kings" and "gods" in our lives unconsciously take precedence over him, what other pursuits and obsessions that consume our time and energy reduce Christ to a figurehead in our lives? The last Sunday of the liturgical year places some tough questions before us: In our homes and workplaces and classrooms, do we stand with Jesus at his cross? In every decision and every choice we make, is Christ the Sovereign of hearts and spirits? ■

**Bake Sale**

**Seniors  
Christmas  
Bake Sale**

**December 8 & 9, 2001**

Anyone with "great" old recipes, or one that "mom always used to make," even something new, is welcome to bake and bring your creation to contribute to the sale. Cookies, bars, breads & candies are all great items. Package your offerings in small quantities and price reasonably. Bring them to the sale before any of the Masses on that weekend.

Proceeds will be used to purchase furnishings for the Senior Leisure Center.



# Looking Ahead

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

- 7:30am Mass (Cantor & Organ)
- 9:30am Mass (Choir & Organ)
- 11:30am Mass (*Spiritu* Contemporary Group)
- 1:00pm Hallelujah Chorus (Choir room)
- 2:00pm 7th & 8th Grade Schola (Choir room)
- 3:00pm *Hosanna* (Choir room)
- 6:15pm Mass (No music)
- 7:00pm Ecumenical Service (Christ the King)

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- 9:30am Word/Eucharist
- 7:00pm Council of Catholic Women (BK)

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

- 8:30am Mass
- 9:15am Chair Aerobics (Seniors Room)
- 1:30pm Script/Comm (Presbyterian Homes)
- 7:15pm *Spiritu* Group (Choir Room)

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- 8:30am Word/Eucharist
- 6:00pm Sr. High Service Club II
- 6:30pm Cantor Rehearsal (Church)
- 7:00pm Room Visits (New Brighton Care Ctr.)
- 7:15pm Choir practice (Choir Room)
- 7:30pm Jr. High Live (JHL) (Youth Room)

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- 8:30am Mass
- 9:15am Chair Aerobics (Seniors Room)
- 9:15am Circle of Women (PC Upper Level)
- 10:15am Script/Comm (Innsbruck)
- 2:00pm Mass (St. Anthony CC)
- 2:15pm Script/Comm (Trevilla NB)
- 7:00pm SEEKERS Book Discussion (PC)

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- 8:30am Mass
- 9:15am Chair Aerobics (Seniors Room)

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 9:00am Choir Workshop (PC Choir Room)
- 10:00am First Reconciliation Family Mtg. (PC)
- 4:30pm Mass (Cantor & Organ)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 7:30am Mass (Cantor & Organ)
- 9:30am Mass (Choir & Organ)
- 10:30am New Parishioner Registration (PC)
- 11:30am Mass (*Spiritu* Contemporary Group)
- 6:15pm Mass (No music)

## Boy Scouts Christmas Wreath Sale



*St. John's Boy Scouts will be selling Christmas Wreaths after all Masses This weekend.*

*The Boy Scouts will also collect winter coats and other outdoor wear (scarves, hats, & mittens) for those in need. Leave your coats & other items in collection boxes at the entrances.*

## Before I forget...

The fastest growing religion in the United States is Islam. Adherents to Islam are called Muslims. They, like us and the Jews, believe that there is but one God. The Arabic word for God is Allah. They have "99 beautiful names" for God, such as "the Merciful One," "the Compassionate," "the Almighty," "the First," and "the Last," which they often recite on their prayer beads, something like our Rosary. The 100th name of God is unknown. On a lighter, whimsical note, some Muslims joke that only the camel knows the one-hundredth name of God, which accounts for beast's haughty air.

From November 17 to December 17, Muslims around the world will observe Ramadan, a month long fast. As we do our pre-Christmas holiday parties in the work place and neighborhood, our Muslim neighbors are fasting, like we do during Lent. If you have Muslim co-workers, you can expect a polite "no" response if they jeopardized the obligations of the fast. The Muslims holy book, Qur'an (Koran), teaches that they are not to strain relationships with family members who do not share their beliefs.

The Islamic calendar begins with the year 1 AH, the time of the Prophet's (Mohammed) flight to the city of Medena, escaping persecution from the enemies of Islam. This date is known as the year of the Hijrah, the corresponding date to the Gregorian calendar is July 16, 622 A.D. The small group that went to Medina began the spread of Islam that is now practiced throughout the Muslim world.

Islam has Five Pillars of Faith. The observance of the fast of Ramadan is one of the pillars of faith. Because of the rotating cycle of their calendar, Ramadan may occur in winter or in summer. This year, 2001, it began November 17. No matter what the philosophical or ideological discrepancies found in the interpretation of the teaching of Islam, there is no compromise on the Five Pillars.

During the fast, from dawn to sunset, food and drink and sexual intercourse with one's spouse are forbidden. In the evening the fast is broken with dinner. But before the meal, they perform the obligated sunset prayer, as prayer is one of the Pillars of Faith. To prepare for prayer, they wash their hands three times. Next the mouth is washed three times, then the nose, then the face. The arms (up to the elbows) are washed three times, and then their wet hands move over their heads, backs of the neck, and behind the ears. The last washing is the feet, also done three times. All this washing is a form of purifying the body and heart before they appear before the Lord in prayer.

The obligation of the worshippers during the time of fasting is the practice of self-restraint. The purpose of fasting is for Allah. Human beings spend most of their days seeking to satisfy the self and to please others. Islam teaches that the fast of Ramadan is only for the pleasure of Allah. Fasting teaches Muslims to value the good things Allah has provided for them in life. Fasting also recalls the anguish of the poor and hungry.

When a day of fasting has ended, it is customary for believers to gather at their places of worship and listen to the recitation of the Qur'an while performing the prescribed prayers. Before a believer leaves a prayer service, he or she prays for the acceptance of their day of fasting and forgiveness of their sins.

Fasting teaches Muslims to withdraw themselves from things that are offensive to God. A person surrounded by food during Ramadan will not take it because God will give them strength. Even in a hot summer month they will not drink water. Fasting recharges the person for the journey of faith. The prophet (Mohammed) stated, "If my community would realize what Ramadan really is, they would wish that the whole year would be just Ramadan."

The more we learn about other religions of the world, hopefully we Roman Catholics will want to learn more about our faith, Scriptures, rituals, traditions, and liturgy. We are bound to meet more Muslims in our little part of the world. It's important to share our beliefs with them as they share their beliefs with us. We who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, must reflect that name in our lives, in how we look at the world and in the way we treat others.

God bless your Advent time!

Fr. Bill



## Not your average cup of Joe!

### St. John the Baptist Coffee Ministry



All parishioners of St. John's are invited participate in providing hospitality after all weekend Masses. (This is something families are encouraged to do together too!) You can assist with set-up, pouring juice or coffee, washing tables and/or other tasks.

For additional information or to schedule a time, please call Pat Keyes, Community Life Coordinator at St. John's, 651-633-8333 ext. 1217.

## From the Associate...

In the last issue of the Forerunner, there was an article to "Come and See" the new Pastoral Center. A portion of the article briefly mentioned Eucharistic Adoration and the sign up or commitment weekend in February 2002. However, several things need to be in place before that weekend. Fr. Becker is responsible for the Eucharist Adoration in the parish but for the most part this is a lay apostolate and lay organized. We need you to make a difference! The framework necessary is as follows:

Pastor/Associate Pastor  
Lead Coordinator  
Division Leaders  
Six Hour Coordinators  
Six Hour Prayer Teams  
Adorers

A Lead Coordinator oversees the organization and operation for the parish. Danielle Olson, a newcomer to St. John the Baptist parish, has graciously volunteered to be the Lead Coordinator. Thank you Danielle!

The main work of the Division Leaders is done during the organizational phase. A Division Leader calls up the people who are Adorers and finds out the day and hour wanted. A schedule is prepared in six hour blocks for the seven days in a week. After the Eucharistic Adoration begins the Division Leaders assist when needed. Four Division Leaders are needed at this time to work with Danielle Olson.

We also need 24 hourly coordinators, who can be in charge of one hour (the same hour) for each day of the week.

This means a total 29 parishioners are needed to make sure things go. Please pray for the success of this lay apostolate in our parish, and consider what God might ask you to do to establish the beautiful gift of perpetual adoration in St. John's parish. All will be invited to consider pledging an hour, each week, to spend with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Married couples may consider taking a particular hour and rotating weeks. Call the parish office at 651-633-8333 and give your name and number if you want to be contacted in the future about this lay apostolate.

Fr. Michael

## School News...

There are NO CLASSES Monday, November 26.

Please continue to save your General Mills Cereal box tops marked "Box Tops for Education", pop can tabs, Labels from Campbell's Soup, Vlasic pickles, V8 vegetable juice, Swanson frozen foods, Prego spaghetti sauce, Pepperidge Farm products, Pace picante sauce, Open Pit barbecue sauce, & Marie's croutons, dips, dressings and Desserts in Minutes.

All labels, box tops, pop can tabs, etc., may be sent to school or left in the drop box by the office.

## Your Favorite Christmas Present!

When you were a kid did you look forward to the holidays—Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the best of all, Christmas!

Remember how you looked forward to getting that favorite toy? The fun of opening your presents? But every now and then as you opened your presents someone gave you **socks!** What kind of present was that? Who wanted socks for Christmas? What were they thinking? Well, there is someone who would love to get socks for Christmas! Deacon Joe McPherson tells us that the homeless shelters are just about out of socks. So, we're collecting socks for the homeless this Christmas. We need adult white tube socks. Drop-off in containers at the east and west entrances to the Pastoral Center.

## Circle of Women...

The Circle of Women will resume Thursday, November 29 when we will be joined by our guest speaker Pat Samples. Her talk will be "Care and Comfort for the Caregiver." Pat is a transformational educator, writer, speaker and workshop leader on caregiving and other personal development topics. Circle of Women invite women of all ages to join us in the St. John Pastoral Center (upper level) from 9:15—11:30 a.m. Childcare is provided by Kari Gill (please pre-register your child by calling 763-785-6947).

## Faith Formation...

### ATTENTION: PARENTS OF RECONCILIATION STUDENTS:

Reconciliation Family meeting will be Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10:00 a.m.—noon. We will practice what happens during the Sacrament of Reconciliation, view a movie, and do a craft. Nursery will be available for younger siblings but **you must pre-register** with Teresa Neuman at 651-633-1540 ext. 1234. **Please bring a 2 liter bottle of pop with you**—snacks will be provided.

Reconciliation Dates: Tues. Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. & Wed. Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

### CELEBRATE THE WORD

Celebrate the Word is happening at the 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Mass. Please get your child a nametag and calendar/information sheet from the table in the west entrance to St. Paul Plaza. Volunteers are still needed for this program. Please call Teresa Nueman at 651-633-1540 ext. 1234.

### SEEKERS: Adult Theological Book Club

We will meet Thursday, November 29, 7:00—8:30 p.m. in the St. John Pastoral Center, St. Vincent De Paul Room, to discuss the book, **A History of God** by Karen Armstrong, (Ballentine Books, New York). Explore your faith, expand your vision. Questions? Call Mary Ann Zervas at 651-633-1540 ext. 1228.

## Pastoral Ministry...

### ANGEL TREE PROJECT

(Toy collections for the needy)

Help is needed to collect toys at weekend liturgies on Dec. 1–16. Help is also needed to deliver toys on Monday mornings Dec. 3–17.

If you would like to help, please call Judy at the parish office, 651-633-8333 ext. 1229.

### READING RACK

Book groups illustrate a yearning for community and spiritual growth, says Maureen Abood. She interviews author Ron Hansen, for whom writing is a form of prayer, and who tries to share that experience with others.

Culture in Context", Patrick McCormick talks about six good books that look at how our society has been shaped by the Good Book.

Check out the November issue of U.S. CATHOLIC on the parish reading rack. Look for our new location in St. Paul Plaza near the new west entrance to the church.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

#### Those in our community who are ill:

*Beau Anderson, John Battmer, Donald Beaubien, Marcelline Beseler, Leonard Bles, Marcella Boomer, Helen Cmiel, Ann Czech, Louis Czech, Leona Doroff, Lenore Dougherty, Joe Fellner, Bernadette Hearn, Bernice Hopkins, Henry Horbatuck, Michael Kavanagh, Kevin Keenan, Herb Loscheider, Joe Maciaszek, Nancy Mehrer, Rupert Meyer, Irene Mitchell, Corliss Moore, Howard Morris, Donna Murphy, Georgianne Myers, Norman Petri, Ben Ruebbelke, Dennis Ryan, Ed & Eleanor Stich, Richard St. Germain, Sr., Dan Sebesta, Mary Shea, Bob Sorem, Frances Vonacek, Mildred Werner, Patty Wirth, Linda Zappa, Mary Buscher, Richard Hage.*

#### The families and souls of those who recently have died:

*Ronald Wolter (brother of Ginny Petro), Chuck Johnson*

### PRAYER LINE

Call one of these numbers with your prayer requests.

All requests are confidential.

**651-633-1618**

**763-784-5254**

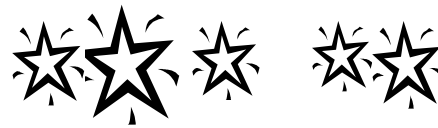
**651-636-5251**

### Birthright

*Caring help for pregnant women.*

651-646-7033 – St. Paul

763-757-0715 – Coon Rapids



**OPEN DOORS** (divorced/widowed/singles group) meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Pastoral Center for socializing and snacks. Our November meeting was a smashing success—the best turnout yet! Several ideas were brought up for the coming months. Watch the bulletin for updates! All are welcome!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**December 8**—Holiday Pot Luck to be held in the Pastoral Center. Social hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner. Bring a dish to share and a wrapped “white elephant” gift. Entertainment and games following dinner. Beverages will be provided—donations will be appreciated. Details to follow regarding a holiday service opportunity in connection with St. John’s. Please RSVP for Holiday Pot Luck by calling Teri Shea at 651-633-8333 by December 1.

**December 11** — The regular monthly meeting for December will be focused on “Getting Through the Holidays.” If you need support, or can offer support, please come to the parish center at 7:30 p.m.

For more information about Open Doors please call Anne Marie Bartlett at 651-633-8333 ext. 1237.

### Employment Opportunity

#### Full-Time Janitorial Position

St. John’s is now hiring a full-time janitor to clean Pastoral Center.

Evenings/weekends, competitive salary, full benefits package.

Please call 651-633-8333 if interested.

### Is there a BASS in the house?



We’ve gained members in the choir again this year, and now we are much in need of basses to balance our sections. Join us NOW as we begin preparing for Advent/Christmas.

C’mon guys—we need you!

Call Cheri Sykes at 651-633-8333 ext. 1231

## Sowers of Justice...

### GRACIOUS THANKS TO YOU FROM SOME OF YOUR BENEFACTORS...

Most parishioners do not know, but we (you) have been providing critically needed assistance to persons you have never met in places you have probably never been. First, there is the food shelf. Each week food is contributed (containers at the entrances to the church), to be given to those in need. First, we stock our own food shelf from which we serve approximately 10 area families each week who come to our doors for help. Second, we contribute a part of what we receive to the MV School District Food Shelf located at Ralph Reeder Community Resource Center. Third, we often have enough food left over to send some to Caroline Family Services Center located in Sacred Heart Parish on the east side of St. Paul. Caroline Family Services (formerly known as Euphrasia House) is operated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. They serve women with children in transition. The center helps them find a residence, assists with food, rent, education, and childcare while the mothers focus their efforts on education, job seeking, and stable employment. In addition to the two sisters who operate the program, they employ two full-time social workers that meet with each family at least once a week to guide, assist, and encourage them. Once women are ready to be on their own, someone new begins receiving help. You should know that for several years your parish has been sending \$200 each month for the sisters to use in their rent subsidy. In the past year we have sent approximately 300 pounds of food per month for use in the program. Each month they send a thank you note. Just thought you'd like to know your generosity is making a real difference in places you did not even know about.

Sister Rita Jirik SSND writes in her Thanksgiving letter:

*"We are at full capacity with 24 families. These are single parent families with from one to four children. Our case managers (social workers) visit with them each week to provide support services. Our purpose is to help them come to economic self-sufficiency and to care for their children in the best way they are able... May... you be blessed during this month when gratitude is expressed in our community celebrations."*

## Bulletin Board...

### SPANISH MASS

If you know anyone from a Spanish speaking country who is still more comfortable worshipping in the Spanish language, there is a 12:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish at St. Odilia's every Sunday. The Crosiers were asked by Archbishop Flynn to provide pastoral care for Latinos in the northern suburbs. For more information call the Welcome Center at 651-415-3313— Padre Tomas. There will be a Spanish Mass on Christmas Day at St. Odilia's at 12:30 p.m.

## Music Notes...

*Music is the best part of Christmas!* Sing with our choir for the season. We're starting to learn the music at our Wednesday rehearsals, as well as a special workshop on Saturday, December 1 from 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. Make this season extra special—sing with us!

### Attention Parents with young ones:

We now offer childcare for Wednesday evening choir rehearsals. This could be your night out! Join us NOW as we begin preparing for Advent/Christmas. Call Cheri Sykes at 651-633-8333 ext. 1231.

### Worship with

dynamic music by *Wild Honey and the Locusts* (Matthew 3:4), our resident jazz combo, every Sunday at the 11:30 a.m. Mass!

## Youth Newz...

Sr. High (9-12th grade) students... Did you miss Peer Ministry Training? New training materials are now available. We still want you! Contact Sara Riehle for more information, 763-754-7666.

Odyssey, junior high faith formation, will meet Wednesday, November 28. All students are reminded to bring their bibles!

Junior highers, JHL will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 28 in the youth room from 7:30—9:00 p.m. See you there!

JHL is still in need of snack donations for the year long program. If you would like to contribute please contact Sara @ 763-754-7666.

Senior High Service Club II will meet Wednesday, November 28 from 6-9 p.m.

Junior and senior high students are you interested in doing service? Do you feel like "giving back" over the holiday season? There are lots of service opportunities in the community like donating gifts, packaging gifts, caroling, or playing games with kids or elderly. Call Sara for more information, 763-754-7666.

Confirmation Candidates' next session will be Sunday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the youth room.

### THANK YOU!

Long overdue is a thanks to the women who helped clean the rectory after our move. Catherine Ecklund, Grace Hektner, Regina Bona & Jacquie Schmitz.

### Next Sundays Readings:

Isaiah 2:1-5 • Rom. 13:11-14 • Matthew 24:37-44