

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church

(Handicapped Accessible)

215 Main Street East, New Prague, MN 56071

website: <http://www.saintwenceslaus.org>



The Feast of the Epiphany



JANUARY 3, 2010

The Council of Catholic Bishops of MN have designated January 3, 2010, the Feast of our Lord's Epiphany, statewide as Immigration Sunday. On this day, we are reminded that all human beings regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, race, creed or status – are “co-heirs, members of the same body and co-partners in the promise of Christ Jesus” We are called to treat all people as daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers in Christ, the temples of the Holy Spirit. As members of Christ's Body, we are also called to advocate for immigration policies that are humane, just and build the common good.

- In 1890, 40% of Minnesota's population was foreign born. Today 6.6% of our state's population is foreign born.
- Today immigrants leave their homes for the same reasons as Minnesota's early immigrants- persecution, oppression, family separation, poverty, drought and globalization.
- Minnesota's students and families speak more than 103 languages and dialects
- In 1896, MN election instructions were printed in 9 languages- Czech, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Polish and Swedish. Today they are printed in 6 languages, English, Hmong, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese.

In their 2008 Statement on Immigration, Welcoming Our Immigrant Sisters and Brothers, the Minnesota Catholic Bishops called for immigration policy, based on the principles of Catholic social teaching, which would:

- recognize the inherent dignity of every human being;
- seek to reunite, stabilize and strengthen families;
- ease the path to citizenship for our undocumented sisters and brothers who are living in the United States;
- provide access to basic necessities;
- embody due process protections; and
- reflect an awareness of the social, political and economic causes of migration.

Believing that “the Church is the sacrament of the unity of the human race,” let us work together to achieve justice for our immigrant sisters and brothers. For more information on immigration, please visit: www.mncc.org.

The Epiphany of the Lord

A Further Reflection on the Feast of the Holy Family-

The Family:

A school of growth for both children and parents

We hear in the gospel that Jesus submitted to Mary and Joseph as their child. He then “grew in wisdom and age.” Learning in the family goes both ways! Jesus grew and so did Mary and Joseph as they parented their son Jesus. In some respects, it is hard to know who changes and grows more: the parents or the children. On Monday of last week, I homilized at the funeral of my Godmother, Mary Ann, who was also mother of 12 children with her husband of 56 years, Don. These two worked very hard to create a family—a home—where 12 children could grow. There would be different personalities and needs. There was little time for grudges, much need for compassion, constant need for welcome and hospitality, tremendous management challenges and yet the need to give freedom to others by accepting them for who they were. How does one make clear and decisive judgments and decisions as a managing mother, yet at the same time always love the person regardless of their behavior? The sons and daughters of Mary Ann, as well as the daughters & sons in-law do not know how she did it.

Nevertheless, the grace of God was certainly playing out in her life. She would be faithful in love to her husband, faithful in love to her children and grandchildren, faithful in love to the God who adopted her also as a child in God’s family. Did she do it perfectly? NO—God does not demand perfection. God asks us to be faithful sons and daughters in God’s family. MaryAnn’s family life was a witness to what God’s faithfulness and enduring love for us is like.

Being a good parent is a focal anxiety for many people. The stories in the Scriptures illuminate the way of wisdom: recognizing the child and the parent as uniquely and mysteriously called by God; caring even through the puzzlement; and hoping confidently in God’s care. My Godmother’s spiritual journey towards union with God was powerfully shaped by her 56 years of being a wife and mother. She had the opportunity to plan much of her funeral and she arranged for these words to appear on her memorial card:

Jesus, Mary & Joseph—I give you my heart and soul;

Jesus, Mary & Joseph—assist me in my last agony;

Jesus, Mary & Joseph—may I breathe forth my soul unto you.

Mary Ann has left us. She has breathed her soul into God’s Holy Family in heaven. The journey with our own families is often the crucible, which brings us to where God wants us to be, and then we enter into divine union with all God’s children in our Father’s house. This is what makes our efforts to be “family” a holy enterprise.

Fr. Kevin

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Jan 4:1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Jan 05: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44

Jan 06: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52

Jan 07: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22a

Jan 08: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16

Jan 09: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30

January 03, 2010

PASTORAL MINISTRY

The next Baptism Preparation class will be held on Monday, January 11th, from 7-8:30pm in Pius X Room, located in the Church Basement.

The Area Separated/Divorce support group will resume after the holidays by holding their first meeting of the New Year on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 7pm in Pius X room, located in the church basement. They usually meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The topic for Jan 5th is "Living In The Question". If you or a loved one is experiencing a divorce/separation you may desire to connect with this group since they understand what you are going through at this time in your life. Questions call Deacon Bob Wagner, parish office or Mary Pieper, 873-6781

Hospital/Rehab Pastoral Visits. HIPPA laws prevent hospitals, nursing homes, and short-term care facilities from automatically informing pastors and parishes when parishioners are ill or recuperating in their facilities. If you or your loved ones are in the hospital or undergoing rehab in short-term care facilities and would like a pastoral visit, please call Deacon Bob at 952-758-0463

PARISH NEWS

Our Act of Faith ***Weekly Financial Gifts***

We want to thank all who contributed financially to the parish during the Christmas Holidays. Your generosity is a great support for all the ministries of the parish.

This Christmas and December 27 collections are still coming in so the totals will be reported next weekend. Thank you for your patience.

*Please remember St. Wenceslaus Endowment Fund
in your wills and other estate planning.*

The Adult Discussion Group will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Parish House (enter at the back door) on Sunday, January 10. The topic of discussion will be: “The Trinity”. All are welcome! If you would like advanced reading material, call Dave or Susan at 952-461-3067 but, while you might find it helpful to read the material in advance, it is not necessary for attendance or participation. Thank you.

Confirmation classes will resume January 10 at 9:00am for years 1 and 2.

Perhaps one of your New Year’s resolutions is to be more prayerful, or have a deeper relationship with God. Morning Bible Study is a great way to do this and childcare is provided. The group meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month through the month of May. **Note: Morning Bible Study will not meet over the Holidays and will meet again on January 6th, from 9-11am in Pius X room.**

Please consider becoming a prayer partner for a Confirmation candidate. The names of the candidates are available in the back of church. Take an envelope and leave the yellow tag attached. Thank you for your consideration!

Mission trip sign-ups are due: If you are interested in attending the Red Lake Mission trip July 27-31 (high school youth) or the

The Epiphany of the Lord

intergenerational mission trip to Leech Lake Aug. 1-4, payments are due to reserve a spot. Call Mary Higgins at 758-0464 for more info.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN is looking for youth 3rd grade and older as well as adult volunteers to help package food. This event will be held at the Friendship Church in Prior Lake on Friday & Saturday, January 8 & 9. This is a great way to fulfill service hours! For more information, or to sign up, please contact Sara Zweber at 758-6650.

CHURCH CLEANING CREW

Jerry & Jennifer Flicek Tim & Gloria Flicek
Julisa & Jason Fjeldahl Tom & Connie Fitzke
Neil & Michelle Fisher Mark & Mary Finley



Donut Hole Sundays

This is a great time to snack on donut holes, play with your preschool-aged children, and meet other families in the parish. Your whole family is welcome...all children must be accompanied by an adult. The preschool room will be open for one hour following both Masses on Sunday, January 10th.

Soup Kitchen Update:

Dorothy Day Center visitors are continuing to benefit from the generosity of many, St. Wenceslaus parishioners and their friends. The Saturday evening meal at the Dorothy Day Center is prepared and served by St Wenceslaus volunteers along with the tasteful desserts that are prepared by others from the parish. The money that we receive throughout the year along with the monies made at our annual **Soup Supper** is what allows us to continue to buy the necessary groceries for this great meal. Your kindness and concern is very evident, Thank you for your past and continued support. If you have any questions or concerns please call Norb Sticha at 758.3888. Happy New Year!

Mothers in love + Fathers in love = Families in love.

Your whole family deserves the love Mom & Dad discover on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. If you'd like greater depth, growth and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a WWME Weekend can make. The next weekend is February 12-14 at the Kings House in Buffalo. For more information call 612-840-7630.

Make a Date with Your Lifelong Mate 2010 Archdiocesan Newly Married Retreat on Saturday, February 6th, from 9am-2:30pm. Fr. Peter Laird will be speaking on the Importance of Marriage Finances-Communication-Parenting-Holiness-and more. Church of St. Charles Borromeo in NE Mpls. For more information go to www.archspm.org/family or call 651-291-4553. Cost is \$35- Registration is due by January 29.



Please welcome the newest members of our Faith Community!

Grayson Daniel Witty – Son of Daniel & Callie Witty

January 03, 2010



On January 10, 2010, the Knights of Columbus

Council will be holding our 3rd annual Pancake & sausage Breakfast for St. Wenceslaus School.

It will be held in the Church basement from 7:30 am until 12:30 pm. A free will offering can be made by those who attend the breakfast. And remember 100% of the profits go to our school!! Thank you to the Knights of Columbus in advance for their continued support.



A SNOWMAN CELEBRATION

Invited are children ages 6 and under, along with your parents for an evening of fun, games, and prizes. Thursday, January 14th 6-7:30pm in the Parish Activity Center.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Monday, Jan 4:

Fatima Prayer Cell after am service, Chapel
School Resumes

Tuesday, Jan 5:

Fatima Prayer Cell after AM service, Chapel
BB after school
Sep/Divorced Area Support Group, 7-8:30pm, Pius X Room

Wednesday, Jan 6:

Early AM scripture study, 6:45-7:50 am, Pius X Room
Fatima Prayer Cell after am service, Chapel
Morning Bible Study, 9-11am, Pius X Room
Faith Formation Classes

Thursday, Jan 7:

BB after school

Friday, Jan 08:

Adoration 9am-11pm, Chapel

Saturday Jan 09:

Fr. Kevin's Bible Study, 9:30-11:00am Pius X Room,
Dorothy Day Meal Preparation
Paper Drive, 9-10:30am

Sunday Jan 10:

KC Pancake Breakfast, 8am-1pm,
RCIA meets in Parish House Dining Room
Sunday School

PARISH LITURGY

M-F Rosary 7:30 AM Sat. at 8:00 AM

Monday, January 04

8 AM Word & Communion Service

Tuesday, January 05

8 AM Word & Communion Service

Wednesday, January 06

8 AM Mass prepared by the 3rd Grade Class
..... Jake Kartak, Luke Schoenbauer

Thursday, January 07

8:00 AM Mass

Friday, January 08

8:00 AM Mass

Saturday, January 09

4 PM Marcella Bartusek, Ally Bednar & other
..... deceased Bednar family members

Sunday, January 10

8:30AM Robert Pexa

10:30 AM Werner Witt