

**Pastor's Greetings,**

The scriptures of the birth of the Messiah make it very plain that God's plan to save the world is alien to our ordinary human expectations. It is not irrational but it is surpassing strange. It beggars human attempts to figure it out and leaves one stunned at the manner in which divine power is actually used on our behalf. Isaiah said as much (Chs. 7, 9, 52.13-53.12). As far back as the Book of Job the whole affair was imaged as a gambler's venture, God betting the Devil that a human being could be faithful against all odds. God won that bet. That a virgin peasant girl might freely agree to bear the Divine Son, made pregnant by grace not by sexual intercourse, and that that Son even though rejected and executed might still prevail in Resurrection, God won that bet as well. Medieval Catholic theologians compared the latter divine game plan as one of "mouse trap." God hid such a power of love and life in his Son made human, that when Death and the Devil devoured him in vainglorious greed, they themselves were poisoned and made terminal by his unconquerable life and goodness. From the temptation in the Garden until this very day, our Enemy assaults God as unworthy of divinity by attacking us as unworthy of God's love and trust. Even though we know that God has won many rounds in this battle, we fear that some of us have sided with the Enemy and make the Devil's strategy one of the Spoiler. If he can't win the game, he can injure the Victor and tarnish the victory by depriving God of a number of his children. Christ died for all of them, but some (perhaps a great number) may be willingly lost as traitors. In fact the Devil taunts God's wisdom, goodness, and omnipotence at the loss of even one. And in this area of concern we know precious little beyond the danger in which our freedom places us. As a condition for the possibility of love, we can freely despise God's love despite God's intention that made us for divine, eternal joy. "Come, Blessed of my Father," Jesus will declare, "Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25)."

God has chosen to work human salvation through very modest and inauspicious means. God chose humanity, creatures of earth and spirit, in the first place to be eternal companions. How very odd (and insulting, we are told, to some "pure" spirits). God willed that mighty spirits (Guardian Angels) should serve these earth beings (again, insulting to some). This might suggest that we are the occasion of the fall of some mighty, unearthly spirits now quite resentful of our favor with God. God chose to call and bless the old with children, the ordinary with extraordinary roles in the plan, the humble and the unknown to be mighty instruments of the divine will, even illness, poverty, oppression, and death as avenues of holiness and victory. God's ways are not our ways but thoroughly involve us and God's thoughts bear out a logic usually not apparent to us.

The assault continues as we celebrate the turning point of the entire cosmos, the Birth of the Incarnate Divine Son. This infinitely tiny cosmic point becomes the center of the whole Divine project. From this single point derives every grace and every hope for God's victory. We might even say that this reveals the Divine wager. Every human is worth saving. Every child is worth being born. Every child is worth being loved and reared lovingly. Every child is capable of coming to know God and a heavenly destiny. Every teen is capable of moral victory, selfless choosing, chaste discipline. Every adult is capable of hearing and answering the call of a God-given vocation. Every person is capable of selfless friendship and love. Every elder is capable of surrendering an earthly life in passage to an eternal life. Every person is capable of conquering pain and loss by the cross. Every life is worth redemption even though victim to self-chosen or other-imposed disaster. No human life is just so much inconsequential cosmic trash, but each is by the Grace of God an object of infinite and eternal Divine love.

This is astounding and breath-taking news. One hardly can believe it. This truth is underlined by God's placing his assets where his Word spoke (i.e., put his money where his mouth was). Christmas is the front side of the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday/Easter). The Triduum gives the joy the Christmas Angels sing. The two are joined in one seamless, saving continuum.

Merry Christmas. Fr. Richard

**Anointing of the Sick will be at all the Masses this weekend, December 19th & 20th**

*We will be decorating the church for Christmas Monday, 12/21 beginning at 5PM. Please come help!*

**God's Housekeepers: - Dec. 21st—26th**

Carol Schlachter, Bill & Sheila Mattingly, John McCarty Family, Ron Strehl, Nettie Noel, Barbara Keller

**Rest In Peace**

Francis John Rehrauer, Father to Tim Rehrauer

Sister Margaret Joseph Aull

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord!

**Gospel: Lk 1:39-45**

### Adults

How has the Holy Spirit stirred me to recognize God's presence?

### Children

What can I learn from Mary's visit to Elizabeth?

**COFFEE and the CATHOLIC FAITH** is an adult gathering on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the resource room. If you would like to strengthen your relationship with Christ, gain a deeper understanding of your Catholic faith, and develop lasting relationships with other members of St. Pius X Parish, this gathering is for you!! The discussion will focus on the Lighthouse Catholic Media CD entitled "Seven Reasons to be Catholic" by Dr. Peter Kreeft. Dr. Peter is a world-renowned philosopher and best-selling author. In this CD, he presents seven undisputable reasons why every person should indeed be Catholic. The CD is available in the vestibule for a donation of \$3.00. Child care is available. Coffee is provided. If you are interested, please contact Nancy in the parish office, 684-4745 ext. 205 or by email [nmtg54@aol.com](mailto:nmtg54@aol.com). The next session is scheduled for January 3, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

**THANKS** to Greg Bates, Tim Meyer and their families for preparing and serving our Advent parish breakfast. We always look forward to the breakfast meals they prepare for our parish. We also thank Greg and his family for preparing a wonderful meal for our parish catechists. The Christmas dinner is a way of showing gratitude to our catechists. God has blessed St. Pius X Parish with dedicated people who enjoy sharing the Catholic faith with our children/youth. May each of you have a very blessed Christmas.

**BAND-AIDS for the Children of Mandeville.** The children of Mandeville do not have the privilege of using band-aids to cover their wounds. We will be collecting boxes of band-aids during the month of January. If you are able to donate a box of band-aids, please bring your donation to the parish hall after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. A basket marked "BAND-AIDS" will also be available in the Church for your donation of Band-Aids--**during the month of January**. Thanks to Josie Kroeger for assisting us with this project.

**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION** cards are available in the church. Your family is invited to spiritually adopt an unborn child and pray that the unknown child's life will be spared from being aborted. Your prayers can make a difference and provide spiritual support to the parents. The following prayer is prayed for nine months: *"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion. Amen."* In January, 2010 each class in our Sunday morning religious education/faith formation program will spiritually adopt a child who is in danger of abortion. In September, 2010, baby clothes and items will be collected and donated to Birthright.

**Little Flowers Girls' Club** is an organization for young Catholic girls. This club is open to all Catholic girls, from age 5-11 and will provide girls with opportunities to learn what it means to live out the Catholic faith as a young girl. The girls will read, share, and learn about the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Therese, saints of the Catholic Church, women in religious life, and their own mothers.

**Blue Knights' Boys Club** is a club for young Catholic boys. The program is designed for Catholic boys from age 5-11 and is based on developing in boys a devotion to St. Joseph, patron of the universal Church. The idea of the club is to establish Christian virtues and friendships while learning from the lives of saints, religious men, and their own fathers. The theme of the program is the "Armor of God." Each month, the boys will build a piece of their suit of armor.

### DECEMBER FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

December	27	No Session
January	3	Regular Session

### RCIA SCHEDULE

December	23	No Session
	30	No Session

### December Saints/Feast Days

December	25	Christmas Holy Day of Obligation
	27	Holy Family

**ST. PIUS X YOUTH MINISTRY**

**High School & Middle School Service Night**

On **December 20<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm-7:30pm** both groups will be organizing gifts for the Giving Tree and making blankets for the Benedict Shelter. The people receiving gifts from the Giving Tree will be picking presents up between 6:30pm-7:30pm. When there is dead time there we will be social time till the gifts are gone. So come out and help the needy and have fun at the same time.

**St. Benedict Shelter Activities**

**Mark your calendars for January 16<sup>th</sup>.** I have scheduled both High School and Middle School to clean the St. Benedict Shelter for the homeless. The cleaning would be in the morning **10am-12am** dressed to clean.  
**For all information for St. Benedict Shelter contact Matt Hunt**

**Confirmation 09-2010**

The next mini-retreat is **Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2pm-4pm in the Parish Hall.** The theme of the Mini-Retreat is *The Eucharist: Nourished Through the Holy Spirit.*

**TOB for Teens**

**Next Meeting is January 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-8:30pm**

**For information on all Youth Ministry events contact Matthew Hunt 270 684-4745 ext 206**

**"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young.  
Be an example to all believers by what you say and do, in the way you live,  
in your love, your faith, and your purity."  
I Timothy 4:12**



**Giving Tree:** Thanks to all who assisted in making this outreach effort such a huge success! With your help Christmas will be brighter for 22 local families (72 children) as well as our International Family Assistance of \$1,173. 00

**Precious Blood Catholic Church** is presenting a program of Christmas Music With the Church Choir and the Hand Bell Choir today at 6pm at the Church 3306 Fenmore. Please come and join us, as we all prepare for Christmas and the Birth of Our Lord. It is Free and Open to the public.

**With Praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God** The Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Owensboro Announces the Rite of Ordination of Steven Albert Hohman Son of the late Richard A and Marjorie Hohman To the Sacred Order of Deacon, Saturday, the sixth of February 2010. The Rite of Ordination will take place at St. Anthony's Church. Reception follows in St. Anthony's Parish Hall.

**Speed & Jump Development Clinic** will be held at Owensboro Catholic High School on Monday, December 28-Thursday, December 31st at 9am –11am for 4th, 5th, and 6th grades with a limited enrollment of 24. Monday, December 28—Thursday, December 31st for 6th, 7th, and 8th at 1-3pm with a limited enrollment of 24. \$60 per child (same family \$45 2nd child, \$30 3rd child, 4th free). Reserve your spot today! Contact Coach Jim Ivey at 270-570-8412 or email at jim.ivey@owensborocatholic.org. Provide your child's name, grade and a method of contact. Registration paperwork will be filled out the first day of the clinic. Parents of 6th graders, please Discuss maturity of your child with Coach Ivey to determine proper placement.

**Merry Christmas to all!!!!**

**Mass Intentions - Dec. 21st-27th**

21st-Mon.	8am	Erika J. Vandiver & Fam.
22nd-Tue.	8am	Rose Head
23th-Wed.	6pm	Shelby & Margaret Noel
24th-Thur.	5pm	Jim & Liz Hagan
	8pm	Harvey & Marie Johnson
	Midnight	Special Intentions (S.C.)
25th- Fri	10am	Thanksgiving Parish Benefactors
26th-Sat	5pm	Mildred O'Bryan
27th-Sun.	8am	Irvin & Lena Wathen
	11am	Helen Wagner
	8pm	Parish Family

**Vocation Crucifix-December 26th & 27th**

5:00pm	Tom & Libby Johnson
8:00am	Dean & Janie Stiff
11:00am	Randy & Annette Blincoe

**Scrip Schedule- Dec. 19th & 20th**

**5pm**-Stacey Potts, Rex & Laura Carmon  
**8am**-Jerry & Ginger McBride  
 John & Carolyn McCarty  
**11am**- Sherry Nash, Beth & John Clements

**Children's Choir Practice** Monday's 6:30pm in Church.

**Tithing's-December 13th, 2009**

<b>Goal</b> .....	<b>13,360.00</b>
<b>Actual</b> .....	<b>17,410.31</b>
<b>Parish Relief</b> .....	<b>205.00</b>
<b>Children's Collection</b> .....	<b>6.40</b>
<b>Holyday</b> .....	<b>927.26</b>
<b>International Family</b> .....	<b>1,173.00</b>
<b>Retired Religious</b> .....	<b>315.00</b>
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	
<b>Goal</b> .....	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>Actual</b> .....	<b>1,472.67 + 655.00=2,127.67</b>



**Stewardship:** The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

**End of Year Contributions:** December 27 will be the last Sunday in 2009. For those of you who wish to have contributions posted to 2009 for tax purposes, donations must be received by December 31. Thank you for your continued support to the parish in time, talent and treasure.

**All Liturgical Ministers please volunteer at the Mass you will be attending. Thanks for all you do!**

**The Bell**

I Know Who I Am  
 I am God's child (John 1:12)  
 I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)  
 I am united with the Lord (1Cor.6:17)  
 I am bought with a price (1Cor.6:19-20)  
 I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)  
 I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)  
 I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)  
 I am a member to the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)  
 I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8:1-2)  
 I am a citizen from Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)  
 I am free from any charge against me (Rom.8:31 -34)  
 I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)  
 I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph.2:18)  
 I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)  
 I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39)  
 I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22 )  
 I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8-28)  
 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15-16)  
 I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)  
 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)  
 I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)  
 I am God's temple (1 Cor.3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col.2: 10)  
 I am hidden with Christ in God(Col.3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)  
 I am God's co-worker (1Cor. 3:9;2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph.2:10)  
 I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1-5)  
 I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's Child (Eph 1:5)  
 I belong to God  
 Do you know  
 Who you are?

**Praying Hands Prayer Chain-Call 929-4914, 281-4729 or 686-8098, dgfas@earthlink.net** Becky Howard, Donna & Henry Head, Louise Miles, Richard Horn, Charles Aud, Chann Harris, Mary Coy, Pat Yeckering, Christina Downing, Linda McKinney, Donna Powers, James Martin, Billy Brackett, Mandy Lloyd, Johnnie Muncey, Robin Spinks, Kenneth Wright, Dalton Smiley, Susan Sweat, Barbara Alvey, Cody Cox, Mike Murphy, Tony Hamilton, Debra Morse, Billie Quisiberry, Dale Greenwell, Wendy Phelps, Laura Donahue, Aline Garrett, Pam Kehr, Mary Collins, Ann & James Wood, Roger Warren, Barbara Stites, Terrence Miller, Joseph Boehman, Morgan Young, Lukas Hall, Robert Massie, Shelia Phillips, Robert Newton, Nancy Bickett, David Baker, Scott Carter, Sharon Clary, Marsha Bradley, Edward Dowdy, Marvin Morris, Brigit Jones, Allen Payne, Brian King, Carol & Gerald Head, Glenn Grigsley, Louis Payne, James Cummins, Ethel Larossa, Becky Cook, Anna Clements, Becky Smith, Sue Willet, Kim Burcham, Deanna Wright, Tracy Blair, Norbert Smith, Jr., Larry Elliott, Paul M. Smith, Jo Ann Kimmel, Jane Smith, Dicki Konkright, Eleanor Richey, Theresa Wilkerson, Mary Hoover, Larry & Martha Stites, Preston Chappell, Dylan Evans, Janet Shartung, Jason Chambers, Lori Stanley, Eugenia Shultz, Gina Board, Easton Pedley, Christine Mulligan, Ray Riley, Mike Marsh, Jerry Clark, Anthony Clark, Laura Zapytowski, Bernice Bertke, James Barnett, Emily Storm, Harlan Best, Cayden Browning, Carol Atwell, Tom Franey, Deborah Watts, Joseph Roach, Mary Jo Jones, Kristi Rehrauer, Lauren Girten, Pamala Chapman, Mrs. Estella Ubelor, Sharri Browning, David Leach, Todd Melton, Helen McCarty, Blake Midkifs, Kathleen Kirk, Amy Cox, Barbara Coomes, Barbara Carrico, Vicki Troutman, Joe McCrystal, Brooklyn Kessenger, Debby Stallings, Christina Booth, Brian Martin, Herbert Johnson, Tara Phelps, David Vanover, Rhonda Williams, Tim & Zoila Davis, Frank Jones, Jr. Jan Mulligan, Kathleen Wettstain, Erika Vandiver, Ron Thomas, Neil Devine, Lisa Russellburg, Kelly Hedges, Judy Byrer, Earl Cecil, Shane Isbill, Agnes Powers, Megan Boarman, Ryan Wahnsiedler, J.C & Jeanette Mayfield, Margaret Fischer, Joe Raley, Mary Ellen Clark, Morgan Nave, Don Nonweiler, Vince Millay, Sue Leeper, Nichole Gowen, Terra Stone, Melissa Manning.

**Military Prayer List:** 1 SG. David Bernosky, Ft. Dix, New Jersey, L/CPL Jimmy Wolter, Afghanistan, Airman David M. Smith, T. Sgt. Kevin Payne, SGT John R. Zaremba, LTC Jason Jones, SGT Jesse Turner, Afghanistan, Sgt. Robert Timothy Wells-Afghanistan, Airman Kaleb Hedden—Iraq.

**December 26th****5:00pm**

**Euch.** Truby Velotta/B-1, Father/B-2, Susan Driskill/B-3, Samantha Langdon/B-4, Cathy Franey/Bal-B,  
**Gifts** Charles & Lisa Zoglmann  
**Lectors** Parker Driskill, Gene Strehl  
**Greeters** Doug Langdon/D-1, Boots Crowe/D-2, Steve Clark/D-3, Martha Vanover/D-4  
**Servers** Nicholas Driskill, Abbie Stallings  
**Ushers** Norman Johnson, Brandon Millay, Gene Naviaux, Steve Clark

**December 27th 8:00am**

**Euch.** Catherine Barnett/Capt.B-1, Father/B-2, Sherman Roberts/B-3, Matt Hunt/B-4, Mary Jo Westerfield/Bal-B,  
**Gifts** Michael & Christa Roberts  
**Lectors** David Haynes, Mary Jo Westerfield  
**Greeters** Jennifer Olssen & Jerry Wells/D-1&2, Mike & Donna Hamlet/D-3 & 4  
**Servers** David Haynes, Alexis Payne  
**Ushers** Mike Maloney, Tom Payne, Dan Durbin, Gary Warren

**December 27th 11:00am**

**Euch** Vince Millay/Capt.B-1, Father/B-2, Heather Lane/B-3, Chace Clements/B-4, Gary Noel/Bal-B,  
**Gifts** Dane & Mary Roberts  
**Lectors** Beverly & Gary Estes  
**Greeters** Brenda Thomas/D-1, Becky Krampe/D-2, Tim & Becky Pedley/D-3,& 4  
**Servers** Evan Smith, Shae Carwile  
**Ushers** Mark Howard, Paul Payne, Rob Edge, Tom Rhodes

**Musician's Schedule— December 24th & 25th**

5pm	Children
8pm	Jubilation
Midnight	Choir
10am	Tracie & Kevin

**Dec. 26th & 27th**

5:00pm	Roger & Margie
8:00am	Paula & Tracie
11:00am	Susan, Margie & Tracie

**Advent Penance Services**

Sun.	Dec. 20	Blessed Mother, Owensboro	2:00
Mon.	Dec. 21	St. Lawrence, Knottsville	6:00

**Readings for the Week**—Dec. 21st– 27th, 2009**Mon:** Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45**Tues:** I Sm 1:24-28; (Ps)1 Sm 2:1,4-8; Lk 1:46-56**Wed:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14; Lk 1:57-66**Thur:** 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5,27,29;  
Lk 1:67-79**Fri:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18**Sat:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4,6,8ab,16bc  
-17; Mt 10: 17-22**Sun:** 1 Sm 1:20-22,24-28; Ps 84:2-3,5-6,9-10;  
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52**NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE**

There will be a New Year's Eve Dance at our Parish Hall on Thursday, December 31, 2009. ***THERE IS A LIMIT OF 150 TICKETS TO BE SOLD, ONCE THESE ARE GONE THERE WILL NOT BE ANYMORE SOLD. SO PLEASE GET YOUR TICKETS SOON .*** Food and drinks will be supplied. Doors will open @ 7:30PM, Music begins @ 8:30 until 12:30 and the doors will close @ 1:30AM. Must be 21 years of age or older. The price of the tickets are \$45/couple and \$25/single. We hope that everyone will come and join the fun. All proceeds will go towards the Capital Campaign. If you have any questions, you may contact Jeff Jones, Jerry Wells, Gail Ray or Roger & Dottie Kirk, Tracy & Cindy Christian.



**Birthright's Layette Needs:** Birthright is in need of the following items to prepare their gift bags for new moms and babies: maternity clothing, robes and slippers (all sizes), preemie and newborn clothing (to 3 months), receiving blankets (or other baby blankets), and small books (Christian theme when possible).

Please bring your items to church the weekend of December 26-27, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Thinking about Separation or Divorce?** – Retrouvaille is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan. 15-17 call (270)683-1545 ext. 357 or email: [sherryvincent@insightbb.com](mailto:sherryvincent@insightbb.com) or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)

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