

The Weave

December 2012

Volume 17 Issue 1

A Quarterly Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

CYO Basketball Starts the Season Stronger

By Joe DePalo

The local CYO Basketball program has been offering a safe and positive athletic environment of strong competitive basketball for many years. Over time the local division has grown to now include parishes from Franklin, Plainville, Norfolk, Wrentham, Medfield, Natick, Norwood, Needham, Westwood and Dedham. They support 78 teams for both Catholic and non-Catholic boys and girls from grades 5 through 12.

A lot has changed over the years but the primary mission of the program has always been to provide the players a positive, safe and competitive experience.

Over the past 10 years, the Archdiocese of Boston has done a lot to implement training programs and rigid structure to dramatically improve the safety of children. But the barrage of disturbing headlines about Jerry Sandusky, Bernie Fine, the doctor from Boston and others forces the directors of youth programs across the country to take pause.



So while the CYO Basketball program, like other Church programs, has been focusing on child safety for several years, many of the parishes have taken steps during the off season to further fortify their current Player Protection Programs.

One example is St Mary's of Franklin. Dave Benoit, Director of Player Safety, said, "The most important part of any youth program is the safety of its participants and maintaining the trust of their parents.

Current events indicate there are those among us seeking access to our children that have evil intentions. Our job is to do all we can to stay ahead of them. That's why we contracted a 25-year expert in Child Abuse & Neglect, an instructor for the Municipal Police Training Council, to design several enhancements to our Protection Program. We now have a 5-layered safety net that expands on the archdiocese's requirements to include additional training

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We Can't Choose Our Relatives

by Joan McGuire

Only two of the Gospel writers even bothered to mention Christ's infancy and they were so different that we have a hard time believing that the two divergent narratives could possibly be the inspired word of God. Even worse Matthew begins his narration with the genealogy of Christ. If a vote were taken of the clergy - lectors who had to stumble through the tongue-tying names and of the benumbed audience who listened to the list of meaningless names, I am sure that this reading would top the list of incomprehensible gospels.

I have had the good fortunate to have been led through the Bible by two great teachers and Biblical scholars, Fr. Raymond Brown and Fr. Stephen Doyle who have directed me as I prayed through Scripture. These are some insights I have gained through their guidance.

In this list of Christ's ancestors, the expected human choices are not always God's choice. Abraham's oldest son, Ishmael, was passed over and Isaac was chosen. Isaac's older son Esau, an honest clod, had his birthright stolen by his lying younger brother Jacob. Jacob's young son Joseph (of the many colored coat) who forgave his brothers for planning to murder him and then selling him into slavery was the embodiment of the

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It's Time for Mistletoe, Holly and Compliments; 70 Free Gifts to Give this Advent

by John Ristaino

The election season of 2012 is now over, although as I pen this article it is in full swing. Watching the election process as I prepare to write this article to appear in the Advent/Christmas edition of 'The Weave' allows me the opportunity to stop and compare our election season and its trappings to those of the Advent and Christmas seasons. In so doing, a concept emerges which can enhance our Advent season and Christmas preparation by challenging each of us to give 70 gifts to others with absolutely no money changing hands.

Candidates for political office spend much time and lots of money communicating to voters their virtues and the positive attributes about their candidacy. They also spend much time and many dollars disparaging their opponent(s). Election seasons impact many voters as they get caught up in the process. It becomes easy to pass along the disparaging remarks about the candidates we don't support. Passing along the negative becomes a favorite pass time for many during the election process. Does this sound familiar?

We now stand at the threshold to the Advent and Christmas seasons. Many wonderful aspects of this time of year dance in our heads. Much like the candidates who communicate the positive aspects of their candidacy; we look forward to a glorious Christmas. Somehow our joy gets tarnished as "others" begin to

extol the negative aspects of the season; the traffic, the crowds, the shopping, the parties, the decorating, the expectations and the cost. With the detractors ripping apart the season, our joys are diminished, our Advent becomes laborious and our Christmas just another day.

This Advent and Christmas we can combat the detractors and the Christmas naysayers. How so? Compliments. Compliments are one avenue to clear away the negative and to keep focused on the joys of the season and the child lying in the manger sent to save us all. Here is how compliments work and how we can give 70 gifts to each other this Advent.

Each day during the first week of Advent pay one compliment. Compliments may be paid to a spouse, a child, a co-worker, a loved one, a neighbor, a friend and even a stranger. The second week of Advent pay two compliments per day. On the third week pay three per day and on the fourth week pay four per day. In so doing 70 compliments will be paid. Compliments are gifts, thus, 70 gifts will be given (gifts that cost no money).

Compliments do not need to be complicated. The best compliments are many times simple statements. When compliments are sincerely delivered their impacts are tremendous. Compliments lighten burdens. Compliments bring joy. Compliments mend fences. Compliments lift people up. Compliments make a difference. Paying a compliment can be accomplished in many ways; face to face, via an e-mail, through sending a note or over the phone. How we pay the compliments is not important. Compliments come in many shapes and sizes. Paying a compliment is a Christ-like act. As Catholic Christians, aren't we called to be Christ-like?

Compliments are simple gifts of this wonderful season. They cost no money to give. Compliment others this Advent and help light the way to Bethlehem and the Christ Child lying in the manger sent to save us all. In so doing the true meaning of Christmas will be given and received.



Families' Corner

by Katherine Ginnetty

One of the annual events in the St. Mary Parish calendar is the Baccalaureate Mass to celebrate our graduating high school students. One senior provides remarks at that liturgy; often they are inspirational and always they give all parishioners insight into the wonderful teenagers who are participants in our parish family. The Weave is proud to publish this year's talk by Sarah MacClellan:

I'd like to thank Mr. Ristaino, Fr. Frank, and Fr. Brian for giving me the chance to speak today. I'd like to start off by telling you all a story, and I openly admit that I borrowed this from an episode of the West Wing that I watched in my government class.

Once upon a time, there was a man that lived by the river. He heard a radio report that the river was going to rush up and flood the town, and that all the residents should evacuate their homes. But the man said, 'I'm religious. I pray. God loves me. God will save me.'

The waters rose up. A guy in a row boat came along and he shouted, 'Hey, hey you! You in there. The town is flooding. Let me take you to safety.' But the man shouted back, 'I'm religious. I pray. God loves me. God will save me.'

A helicopter was hovering overhead. And a guy with a megaphone shouted, 'Hey you, you down there. The town is flooding. Let me drop this ladder and I'll take you to safety.' But the man shouted back that he was religious, that he prayed, that God loved him and that God will take him to safety.

Well... the man drowned. And standing at the gates of St. Peter, he demanded an audience with God. 'Lord,' he said, 'I'm a religious man, I pray. I thought you loved me. Why did this happen?'

God said, 'I sent you a radio report, a helicopter, and a guy in a rowboat. What the heck are you doing here?'

That story is actually completely irrelevant from what I wanted to say, I just

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The Weave

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by Saint Mary Parish, Franklin MA



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"There is a Lotta Religion Here!"

by Fr. Brian Manning

In our daily ministerial work at Saint Mary's sometimes finding the time to think and to write is near impossible for me or Father Frank. My favorite quote about our Parish is "there is a lotta of religion here!" The ordinary and necessary activities and demands of parish life keep us very busy from minute to minute. As I write this the hurricane Sandy has been blowing and raining for the past day, so now I do have some quiet time because everyone else is preoccupied with staying warm and dry.

Did you know this past weekend there were ten holy Masses celebrated in our Church? Two different Bishops came to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation upon 234 young people in three different ceremonies. When the last regular week end Sunday Mass was celebrated over 2400 people had attended church, besides the 3000 that had come for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Indeed not only "a lotta of religion," that is a "lotta people."

Sunday evening as the 5 PM Mass was ending, the hurricane Sandy started its rain and wind here. That evening I learned from TV that the Governor declared a state of emergency and advised that "non-essential personnel" should stay home. This theme of "essential" led me to some contemplation about our Parish.

We have been blessed by an extraordinary Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). Over three years ago when I began my tenure as Pastor, I sought the prayerful insight and advice of our PPC. Sister Dorothea Masuret CSJ came and helped us reflect upon what it means to be a parish. She assisted us by providing Scripture, prayer services and also Church documents, both Conciliar and Papal, to discover the larger theological mean of a parish and also to en flesh this grand understanding in our own Parish. The PPC members are to lead not only by first announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ at Saint Mary's, but also caring for the vision of Life and Faith here at Saint Mary's.

The principal mission of every parish is to "offer praise and worship of our

God." At times parishes can lose focus on their mission or get sidetracked to other purposes and forget their main one. Sometimes by very good desire people want the Parish of Saint Mary to be a shrine, a retreat center, a social center, a teen center etc. All these missions or purposes are very good, but they are not our major work or main mission.

Our mission means that our first and most important priority for our Parish is the faithful and prayerful celebration of the Sunday Eucharist (Masses), followed equally by the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Religious Education of our Young, the Pastoral Visitation of our Sick and Homebound, the celebration of Funeral Masses, Memorial Services and Burial in our cemetery, the care for our poor and needy and also the Life Safety Program for Young and Adults. Did you know that between Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers and Leaders of Song there are almost 300 volunteers? Our Religious Education Catechists (teachers) are almost 150 strong. Our large Bereavement Committee quietly helped with the 124 Funeral Masses, Memorial Services or special Burials this past year. Our Saint Vincent de Paul with grace and strength has grown to care for the many, many people who have been hurt so badly by this economy. Almost 50 people assist in the Pastoral Visitation of the Sick and Homebound. The list can go on and on, for example Ushers or Altar Care Ministry.

Indeed we are blessed with parishioners who know that we are all called to be involved in God's Mission. The "essential personnel" of our parish are the hundreds of us who take up the work of our Parish in praising God and caring for the spiritual needs of our people.

As we start up today after Hurricane Sandy, the work for Sunday Masses is taking place, Religious Education of our young people is happening, the Sacrament of Forgiveness has been offered, the Sick have and are being visited, the St. Vincent de Paul Society has brought relief to the needy and also those hurt by the loss of a loved one have been visited and comforted.

We are blessed by our God. We ask that our God continue to bless the "lotta religion" here at Saint Mary's!

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

Go with God's Flow

When I was three my mother forbade me to use sharp knives or climb up and take dishes from the second shelf of the cabinet. At eighteen if I were still adhering to these rules I would have a hard time cooking. These rules and regulations in the first part of my life are like the wine skins that Christ talked about in his parable.

Into these new wine skins one puts new wine and together they mature. As the wine ages so also does the wine skin mellow to acclimate itself to the needs of the maturing wine. Like the wine, our spirituality matures and our responsibility to serve God by tending to the needs of the Body of Christ in our neighbors also increases. In seeking a balance between the authoritarian rules and regulations of my youth and the need to "live in the present moment to serve," I find solutions to my perplexity in Scripture.

God definitely has His own agenda. He offers us a unilateral covenant of love and sends His Son to show us how to live it. Instead of sending an adult to show us how to live for thirty three years, He sent a baby who had to spend time growing up! Besides having only three years to spread the "Good News" Jesus seemed intent on stirring up the "STATUS QUO." He made it a habit to eat with sinners, cure the blind and lame on the Sabbath, and have ignorant fishermen as His disciples. He traveled to Samaria instead of taking the detour, sent His apostles to find food and rested by the well while he waited for the Samaritan woman, who was definitely not a pillar of the community, to share with her the message of the new covenant.

Obviously Jesus was not interested in a spiritual person with a quiet demeanor and a beatific smile like Ingrid Bergman in the "Bells of St. Mary". All God asks is that we hold tightly to His hand trusting Him through all the chaos of life. And always be prepared for the endless wave of Transformations.





Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Nov. 22** Thanksgiving
Mass at 8am
- Nov. 24** Nativity Display
- Nov. 25** Nativity Blessing, 9am Mass
- Nov. 25** Nativity Display
- Nov. 27** Mass at nursing home
- Dec. 1/2** Food Collection Weekend
- Dec. 1** Pageant rehearsal, 9am
- Dec. 2** First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 2** Baptisms
- Dec. 7** First Friday Adoration
- Dec. 7** **Feast of The Immaculate Conception** Vigil Mass 4pm
- Dec. 8** **Feast of the Immaculate Conception: 9am Mass**
- Dec. 8** Pageant rehearsal, 9am
- Dec. 9** Baptisms
- Dec. 9** Caring Tree presents due
- Dec. 9** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Dec. 12** Mass at Forge Hill
- Dec. 15** Pageant rehearsal, 9am
- Dec. 16** Baptisms
- Dec. 18** Mass at nursing home
- Dec. 24** **Christmas Eve**
Masses: 4pm (3 locations), 6pm, 7:30pm, Midnight
- Dec. 25** **Christmas**
Masses: 9am, 10:30am
- Dec. 30** Baptisms
- Dec. 31** **Mary, Mother of God**
Vigil Mass: 4pm
- Jan. 1** **Mary, Mother of God**
Masses: 9am, 10:30am
- Jan. 6** Baptisms
- Jan. 13** Baptisms
- Jan. 20** Baptisms
- Jan. 27** Baptisms
- Feb. 3** Baptisms
- Feb. 5** **First Penance**
- Feb. 10** Baptisms
- Feb. 13** **Ash Wednesday**

Meet the Seminarians

Once again this year, two second-year seminarians from Blessed John XXIII Seminary will be with us on Tuesdays.

They will be working with Nan Rafter on the pastoral care component of their seminary training by visiting the homebound, the sick and the dying.

This year's seminarians are Christopher Lowe and Charles Ruoff. Please read their columns elsewhere on this page, introducing themselves to the parish.

Meet the Seminarians - Christopher Lowe

by Chris Lowe



The voice woke me up from a sound sleep. "Now will you follow me?" I did what any man would do. I got up, looked out the windows, checked the radio (it was

off), checked the house and went back to bed.

The next week, in our bulletin, was a notice for a Vocation weekend. I belatedly put 2 and 2 together. The call that I had been hearing since I was a young altar server was suddenly getting much louder. I could respond to this call now, because 2 weeks earlier my wife of 30 years had died. My vocation of marriage could possibly be replaced with a vocation of Holy Orders. I remembered my wife's words from many years ago, "If anything were to happen to me, you'd never get another girlfriend, you'd just become a priest." Perhaps she knew something about me that I did not know.

As I continued to discern my vocation, I put up many barriers as to why it was not possible. Every time I raised a barrier, God crushed it, usually within days. I needed money to live on for 4 years at the Seminary; my IBM pension matured with a corresponding letter. My family may not be behind this; my atheist brother called me and told me how excited he was that I was thinking of entering the seminary.

God continued to speak and I continued to listen. I must admit that when I visited the seminary and many of the men told me that they quit their jobs and sold their houses and came, I had serious reservations. I could never do that. I developed spreadsheets to work out the finances. I could keep the house. I could rent out my house. I could buy a condo. God continued to speak and very slowly, I heard and understood. I resigned from IBM and sold my house. I did buy the condo in Maine, but my family is living in it. I need some place to sleep on those rare vacations.

The most amazing part of being in the

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Meet the Seminarians - Charles Ruoff

by Charles Ruoff



Diocese of Venice, FL seminarian Chuck Ruoff will be spending this school year at St. Mary's working and learning during his Pastoral Assignment.

Chuck is currently attending school and priestly formation at Blessed John XXIII National Catholic Seminary in Weston, MA, obtaining his Masters degree in Theology. Chuck was born in Philadelphia and raised at the Jersey Shore.

Chuck graduated from a High School minor seminary with the Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, based in Silver Springs, MD. After higher education degrees in Journalism and Public Relations, Chuck spent 30 years in government and politics. He has worked for every level of government (municipal, county, state and federal) ---including Deputy Mayor of his home township in South Jersey and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer for FEMA.

Chuck enjoys traveling and all sports. He is, as he puts it, "the thorn between two roses" having an older and younger sister all very close in age.

"I desire to respond to the call of priestly ministry to be a man of prayer who ponders the Word and follows His will. To be conformed more each day to the image of Jesus Christ by being a faithful follower. I want to be a servant who celebrates and shares the Church's sacraments and cooperates in his abundant grace. Hopefully, I will encourage indifferent and tepid souls, afford spiritual comfort and open people's hearts to the Lord's merciful embrace," says Ruoff.

"Life as a Roman Catholic priest will require much sacrifice and devotion to the faith and to the people of God, however, through claiming His graces and mercies in my future and everyday life, I can and will be sustained no matter how unworthy I may be to become a consecrated religious priest to our Church and God," Ruoff concluded.



Preparing for Your End of Life Journey

by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

By the time this Weave gets published, the Physician-Assisted Suicide vote will have been counted. No matter what the voters have decided, we as a Catholic people still can decide on our end of life decisions keeping within our rich teachings to respect and care for our bodies until we are called home to God. In this beautiful ministry, I have journeyed with many at the end of their life and have seen many forms of healing. It may be a physical healing or it may be an emotional or spiritual healing. A father reconciles with his son... a daughter returns to the church... a grandmother holds her first grandchild. Most recently I witnessed a young woman during her end-of-life journey bring healing to others by helping them be at peace and to reconcile with the church and with God. We have been given the gift of life from God and with this gift comes God's promise to care for us. He sends people into our lives to help us on our journey, however they need to know our wishes, fears, and concerns.

In my experience, I have found that most people who have faith are not afraid of where they are going when they die.

They are concerned about of the dying process and if they will be in pain, become a burden or lose their dignity. Palliative care and Hospice programs help to provide comfort care and effective symptom control and offer support to the person and their family.

When making our decisions about our medical care, we need to look at the patient, the medical treatment, the expected result and the affect the treatment will have on the patient and family. I encourage all of us to have a health care proxy, which is a legally binding directive that specifies a "proxy" who will make medical decisions on behalf of a person should that person become unable to make their own decisions.

It is also important that your proxy understand what care you want or do not want in keeping with your Catholic values and beliefs. Having this important discussion with your family or proxy can be emotional and difficult, so timing will be important. It is also important to make certain that your primary doctor is aware of how you want to be cared for.

Here are some helpful suggestions to make your health care needs known:

Use a news event as a way to begin discussions. Headlines about end-of-life events can be a way to open discussion.

Holiday gatherings. During the holidays, family are gathered together and often take stock of the future, which can create a receptive atmosphere for discussing end-of-life wishes. If you are uncomfortable talking about this emotional subject at the Thanksgiving table, then maybe there will be some private time before the family leaves the area.

When people are feeling physically and emotionally strong. Discussing end-of-life care can be emotionally difficult and should be done when people are feeling well and in good health.

When you have time. These important discussions should never be rushed. Give yourself time to have a meaningful conversation.

Soon after being diagnosed with a serious illness. Even though your illness may not be terminal, it is important to begin talking about what you would want if your condition were to worsen.

When you find yourself in a quiet, private setting. Distractions can make difficult conversations even more difficult, if not impossible. Discussions about end-of-life issues are usually best on a one-on-one basis initially. Then when you have decided what your wishes are, include other family members so everyone will understand.

Remember that the discussion of these important issues can be ongoing. You may change your health care directive at anytime.

If you have questions about your wishes conflicting with Catholic Church teachings, please talk with our priests or pastoral staff. We have health care proxy forms with a summary of the Catholic teachings available in our health ministry office. An excellent resource is Patricia D. Stewart's book, *The Health-Care Decision Guide for Catholics*.

Your life is a precious gift from God and we need to honor it from birth until our natural death. All of our days are a gift from God. "Whether we live a long or short life, all our days is in God's hands." Ps.39:4"

PARISH COMMUNICATION

This parish is very large and active. It is important for us to be able to give you accurate information and for you to be able to contact us as needed. If you wish to contact anyone at the rectory we can be reached by phone, 508-528-0020; Fax, 508-528-1641; or email. Here are email addresses for the clergy, Religious Education and rectory staff:

Father Brian Manning: bmanning@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Frank Campo: fcampo@stmarysfranklin.org

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Nan Rafter: nrafter@stmarysfranklin.org

If your parish group or organization would like to place a notice in the bulletin, we must receive it **in writing** by 5pm Sunday afternoon for the following weekend. Information can also be submitted for inclusion on the parish website at any time. Bulletin or website information can be emailed to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

If your organization is planning to use any parish facilities, such as the church, church hall or new meeting rooms or school, for your meetings, events, etc. it is **necessary** that you call and reserve the time and place that you want. This is the **only** way that you can be assured of having your activity at the desired location.

CHECK OUT OUR PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarysfranklin.org. There is a wealth of information available there.

Our First Native North American Saint

by Father Frank Campo

The story is a simple one. About 300 years ago a young Native American girl was born of an Algonquin mother and a Mohawk warrior father in Auriesville, in now what is upstate New York. Years before French Jesuits missionaries had been welcomed by the Native Americans. The girl's mother was one of the Jesuit conversions.

However, European diseases began to be spread, one of which was smallpox, and the epidemic killed her Algonquin Christian mother and badly scarred the young girl's face, impairing her eyesight. She was given the nickname Tekakwitha, which means "**she who bumps into things.**"

In her teens she converted to Catholicism, as her mother had done. The Mohawks by that time had taken a dim view of missionaries, those whom we know as the North American Martyrs. To the Indians they came to appear more like evil spirits than religious men, as a result, in part, of the smallpox epidemic. The missionaries were subjected to refined and terrible tortures. Anyone who has visited the Shrine of Auriesville knows of the eeriness which surrounds the ravine nearby in which the Jesuits were martyred.

In such a setting the young Indian girl faced persecution and worse; thus, she escaped to an Algonquin village near Montreal. There she lived a simple life of prayer, penance, and suffering, dying at 24 years of age.

She probably would have been forgotten, were it not for the ways of the Holy Spirit who has brought her to sainthood the other week (October 21st), along with six others, one of whom is the American Mother Marianne Cope, a Franciscan nun, who worked for many years with the lepers in Molokai.

Since Kateri died in what is now Canada and was born in what is now the USA. Thus, the questions arise as whether the two North American coun-

tries will have a sort of tug-of-war over whether she is more of a Canadian saint or more of an American one. Yet back in the 17th century, Quebec all the way down to New York was Indian land; and thus she is neither Canadian nor American. She is North American. The first Native North American to be brought to sainthood.

Native American Indians, Catholic and non-Catholic, rejoice in the recognition she has received. A Navajo from Kansas, who is not Catholic, said "**She can help us by connecting us together. She may be a saint of the Catholics, but as a Mohawk she can signify the sacredness of life recognized by all Native Americans.**" There were and are powwows all over Canada and the USA testifying to the joy in which the canonization of Kateri brings particularly to North America. St Peter's square was a witness to those celebrations in October.

Pope Benedict said in his at Mass following the canonization that St. Kateri was "**faithful to the traditions of her people; but also faithful to the Christianity she embraced at age 20. May her example help us to live where we are, loving Jesus without denying who we are.**"

St. Kateri Tekawitha is, thus, present to us, listening to and interceding for us, if we ask her. She is not only a patron of the Native American Indians, in particular; not only a patron of women, not only a patron of youth; but she is there for us all, nationally and internationally as Pope Benedict mentioned.

Such is the power of sainthood. We welcome her, along with St Marianne Cope, and the other new saints. And we thank God and the Church for the gift we receive through them, by way of the Communion of All Saints.



The Face of God

by Fr. Jack Sullivan

Whenever Catholics gather for Mass, we pray for the dead. In the new translation of the Roman Missal, we pray for the dead in these words: welcome them into the light of your face. In our Catholic imagination, our God has a face that sheds light. Along with Saint Ignatius of Loyola, we trust that our God always keeps his face turned toward us. Long ago in the desert wilderness, Moses taught Aaron and his sons how they might bless the Israelites: "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace" (Numbers 6:23-26). In the wonder and joy of the Christmas celebration, we rejoice that our God has shown us his face, the face of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. Friends, recall the third verse of our beloved Christmas carol Silent Night: Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, loves pure light, radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth !

Advent and Christmas Liturgical Celebrations

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Vigil: December 7

4pm

December 8

9am

Christmas Eve

Masses:

4pm (3 Masses); upper church, lower church, Horace Mann Auditorium with the Children's Pageant

6pm, 7:30pm

****Midnight Mass****

Christmas Day

Masses: 9am and 10:30am

New Year's Eve

4:00pm

New Year's Day

Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
9:00am, 10:30am



Year of Faith

...Can't Choose

...Christopher Lowe

by Helen Brunelle

Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed a Year of Faith beginning October 11, 2012 and concluding on November 24, 2013, the feast of Christ the King. October 11 marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council on October 11, 1962 and the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church on October 11, 1992.

Our website, stmarysfranklin.org, has links to wonderful resources for the Year of Faith, including prayers, the Catechism, documents from Vatican II, and news articles. The explanation of the logo is very interesting.

In conjunction with the Year of Faith, here at St. Mary's we are featuring Faith Moments on our website. These are short paragraphs written by our parishioners, family members, and friends, explaining what their faith means to them. We have a few listed already, so please check out the website. If you would like to participate, please email your Faith Moment to parweb09@yahoo.com or mail your Faith Moment to the rectory. You do not have to include your name, and no names will appear on the website. Please join in our Year of Faith celebration.

...CYO Basketball

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and awareness seminars with personal interviews and background checks for our coaches, coupled with player and parent involvement and an atmosphere of open communication throughout the program."

Yes, a lot has changed over the years. As the upcoming season kicks off this month with tryouts and team selection, it's encouraging to see the changes the Catholic Church has made to take such positive steps to lead in the protection and safety of children. Parents should feel better knowing that the CYO Basketball Program works hard to ensure player safety and has a comprehensive safety net in place.

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Jesus story and was certainly more noble than his calculating older brother Judah who was mentioned. Jesus was foretold to be born of the House of David. David, the king who took Bathsheba, the wife of his soldier Uriah and then had him killed on the battlefield to hide his misdeeds.

Lastly the genealogy surprisingly contains women. Not the wives of the great patriarchs but women whose marital situation contain elements of human scorn. Except for Mary and Joseph this is a collection of unknown people who did not seem contribute much to Sacred History.

To complete His purpose God did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the pure as well as the impure and even women, who were considered chattel and who had no standing in the Jewish society.

Here is the Challenge of the Christmas message. Even though we may feel insignificant in this power hungry world, God still writes straight with crooked lines and this genealogy is a gift designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance in His plan. God's grace can work even with the least of us. The sequence continues, Jesus called the apostles and Paul...Paul called Timothy and down through the centuries each generation called the next. Someone called you and by your daily words and actions you **must** call someone else. **You are a link in the message of God's Love to the end of time.**

(Continued from page 4)

Seminary is my brother seminarians. They are always there for you; in sickness, study slumps, low moments, Patriots games, shopping trips, pub crawls, meals, and chapel time. They raise you up when you are down and keep you from getting too high on yourself when you need that as well. They frequently speak with the voice of God perhaps without even realizing it.

One wise brother told me early on that "chapel time" was more important than study time. It took me two months to understand what he was saying, but my personal, quiet "chapel time" is an important part of my day at the seminary. I sit in God's presence and listen for His voice. I don't expect to hear it like I did 2 years ago, but I still listen for His voice every day.

God is speaking, are we listening?



...Families' Corner

thought it was funny. Just kidding.

There are so many terrible things that happen every day, we see them on the news, and feel the pain of them in our own lives. Sometimes it's hard to remember to look for the good things and the beauty that surrounds us too. A sunny day, the happiness of a friend, the health of a family member. If we counted up all of the beautiful things in life that we continuously overlook, we could always find something to be happy about. It is said that God works in mysterious ways. Well, I never thought that God would send messages through the radio or a megaphone.

Before I end this, I want to say that I don't have a lifetime worth of knowledge to give advice from, and that I am only speaking from 18 years' worth of experience. Keep looking for God in the little things, keep your faith, and try and find something beautiful in your life today, and every day, for the rest of your life.

Congratulations Seniors.



Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS



Sign of the Times

A woman went to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What denomination?" asked the clerk.

"Oh good heavens!" sighed the woman, "Have we come to this? Well, give me 30 Catholic, 10 Baptist ones, 20 Lutheran, and 40 Presbyterian..."



A Christmas Blessing for the Home

Loving God, as we gather at Christmas around the manger, which reminds us of the birth of your Son, we ask you to dwell in our hearts and our home.

Bless every member of our family, and strengthen the bond of love among us.

May we joyfully praise you like the angel choir that announced the birth of your Son to the shepherds watching over their flocks.

May we show your love to others with the same brightness of the star that guided the Wise Men to offer gifts to the newborn King.

Make our family holy, just like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, so that we may always live in peace and love. Amen.

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

The Weave

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