

November 1, 2010 –
January 31, 2011



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

COME, LORD JESUS! WE AWAIT YOUR COMING. COME, O LORD.

As we approach this holiday season, it's important to take the time to remember the true meaning of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation and reflection, hope and anticipation. Each year the busyness of the season distracts us from having an Advent season that truly prepares us for the celebration of Christmas, with all its meanings.

In this issue of *The St. Vincent Voice*, you will find our fellow parishioners celebrating and reflecting on their faith. Read about parishioner Rob Wills and how he became one of this year's recipients of the Leading With Faith Award. Another parishioner,

newly ordained Deacon Larry Lawinger, answers the question; "How did you know you wanted to be a Deacon?" Explore the symbolism of Advent with a deeper look at the Advent wreath, poinsettia plant, and ways to bring your family together in preparation for Christ's birth. Share in the experiences of our adult mission trip and hear from our teens as they look forward to World Youth Day.

Take time this Advent season to reflect on how you live your faith and to prepare for the coming of Christ.

—Lisa Price, Parishioner

FACES OF ST. VINCENT'S

Rob Wills—Recipient of The Catholic Spirit's Leading With Faith Award

On September 30, I was honored to be in the presence of Archbishop John Nienstedt, the staff of the Catholic Spirit, and family friend Fr. Bernard Riser to receive the Leading With Faith Award given by the Catholic Spirit. Nominated by my mother-in-law, Dawn Mannella, I was humbled to receive the award and honored to be surrounded with so many loving family and friends.

I feel so blessed to be able to go to work each day and share my Catholic faith with others! For the past twelve years, I have served as manager of Mary's Place and the Teen Center at Sharing and Caring Hands. Having been a friend of one of Mary Jo Copeland's sons since second grade, I was surprised twelve years ago to get a phone call from her. She told me that God put it on her heart to ask me to come and run her Teen Center. I was apprehensive and

stunned, but how do you say "no" to Mary Jo Copeland? I've been there ever since!

I am fortunate to be able, on a daily basis, to pray with my co-workers, children, teens, and the homeless people I come in contact with. While I share my love of God and the Catholic faith with them, the people at Mary's Place and the Teen Center have taught me even more. They have taught me about resiliency, how people are more important than things, that all humans are worthy of respect, and to put your trust in God.

God has his mark on everything we do. Twenty-three years ago I was in a car accident and broke my back. At that time, I did not know what the future had in store for me. I now realize that God gave me a unique platform from which to be able to talk to and reach others - my wheelchair! What may seem as obstacles to us, God sees as opportunities. He has given me the opportunity to help homeless youth and adults in a unique way and for that I feel very blessed.

—Rob Wills, Parishioner



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **November 1:**
All Saint's Day
- **November 2:**
All Soul's Day
- **November 9:**
Prayer: The Faith
Prayed
- **November 20:**
Men's Spirituality
Breakfast
- **November 25:**
Thanksgiving Day
- **November 28:**
First Sunday
of Advent
- **December 2:**
Guest Speaker—
Church History
- **December 4 & 5:**
Christmas Bazaar
- **December 8:**
Immaculate
Conception
(Holy Day of Obligation)
- **December 11:**
Breakfast with Santa
- **December 25:**
Christmas
- **January 1, 2011:**
Mary Mother of God
- **January 2:**
Epiphany of the Lord
- **January 19 & 26:**
St. Joseph Movie/
Discussion
- **January 29:**
Men's Spirituality
Breakfast
- **January 31:**
Catholic
Schools
Week
Begins



ASK FATHER

Fr. Chue Answers Parishioner Questions

Q. In the story of Jesus' birth, why does Matthew have different details than Luke's account?

- Submitted by Marie Henrichs

We need to remember that Matthew wrote his Gospel to the Jews, and Luke wrote his Gospel to the Gentiles. Each of them wanted to convey a message that would be meaningful to his particular audience.

A few of these differences are:

Matthew's genealogy goes back to Abraham. Matthew wanted to show that the promise God made to Abraham is fulfilled in Jesus: the sacrifice of Isaac and "in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing" (Gen 22:9-18). Luke's genealogy goes back to Adam to show that what God promised to mankind is fulfilled in Jesus: "He will strike at your head while you strike at his heel" (Gen 3:15).

Matthew tells how Jesus, Mary, and Joseph go to Egypt. This reflects the Jews who had been in Egypt to fulfill what God said: "out of Egypt I called my Son" (Hosea 11:1). Luke tells how Caesar Augustus issued a decree that involved the whole world. This decree brings Joseph and Mary, who is with child, to Bethlehem, the city of David.

The annunciation in Matthew is to Joseph, a descendant of Abraham. The annunciation in Luke is to Mary, the hand maid of the Lord.

THE DISCERNMENT OF A DEACON

Parishioner Larry Lawinger Recently Ordained

Recently, I was ordained a Deacon of the Catholic Church. This was the culmination of one year of looking into the Deaconate vocation and another four years of schooling. When people hear of this sort of time commitment, they often wonder and even ask, "How did you know you wanted to be a Deacon?"

The truth is - I didn't know at first, at least not for sure. I want to tell you a little about my story and maybe if you are thinking about discerning a religious vocation, some of that story might help. Please know that discernment is different for everyone. And this example is by no means the "How To" of discernment. But I think that anyone looking at the religious life wonders, "How do I know for sure that this is what God is calling me to?"

I, for one, found that when I was in grade school, I already felt something tugging at me. I spent two summers at a seminary in Holland, Michigan. Thankfully, my parents allowed me to pursue that urge and my parish priest knew some good seminarians he could trust. My parents allowed me to get on a bus from a little rural community in central Wisconsin, ride it into the heart of

Chicago, get off and wait for two young men whom neither I nor my parents had ever met. They picked me out of crowd and drove me up to Holland, Michigan for two weeks. Boy, if you want a definition of faith, I think you have it right there!

While I thoroughly enjoyed the seminarian life back in the 7th and 8th grade, I must admit that upon seeing my then-future-wife the first time, I lost all inclination for the priesthood. But I have to tell you - I didn't lose that calling to serve God. And 20 years later, when my parish priest asked me one day if I would ever consider becoming a Deacon, it didn't take much for my wife and I to look into it.

Now why is this? How is it that some men become Deacons and others don't? I can't tell you for sure, but I can tell you that I

Submit Your Question!

If you have a question for Fr. Jack or Fr. Chue, please mail it to: **The St. Vincent Voice Editor** at the church, or e-mail it to: editor@saintvdp.org.



JoAnn & Larry Lawinger

(Continued on page 3)

THE DISCERNMENT OF A DEACON

(Continued from page 2)

struggled with that question for myself. Is God calling me to do this? Should I expect a sign? Or should I just know that this “urge or calling” I had to be a Deacon is really God calling me?

With these questions, I went to Joe Michalak, head of the Deaconate program to discuss the possibility of being a Deacon and he said it best; “Come and check it out, and then, let the process tell you.” Joe’s favorite saying to me and others in the Deaconate program was; “Trust the Process!” We all used to kid him about that. But he was ABSOLUTELY right. I just needed to have faith that going through the formation process would tell me. I needed to “Trust the Process.” So my wife, JoAnn, and I did. I had questions and doubts through the whole process and if you decide to pursue any religious life, I am sure that you will too. It’s actually a great thing because question and doubt cause you to dig deep into your soul and there you will find what God is calling you to do. This would be true even when you’re discerning married life or the single life. Most important through all of this is to PRAY. If you want God to tell you what to do, you need to pray to Him and then listen. Reflect, meditate on scripture, or use your own prayer. God really does talk back to you if you let Him, if you’re quiet and let Him.

A common question is how do you find time? It’s like all other things you have a passion for in life. You will make time. Life is busy already. Adding a vocation like the Deaconate only adds to that - this is true. But you will find that you spend less time on the unimportant things in life and make more time for things like the Deaconate. I simply LOVE watching television, but I found that I can go for long periods of time without it!!

Lastly, I recently found this list of questions that are meant to help someone discern a religious calling. You may find them useful. It is said that if you answer “yes” to even a few (three or more) of these questions, then you may have a calling to the religious life. If you answer “yes” to seven or more of them, there is a greater chance you are being called to serve God in a more special way.

- ✚ When you hear the Word of God, does it make you want to share it with others?
- ✚ Do you find yourself more uplifted when you speak of spiritual things versus holding a full-time job in the world?
- ✚ Do others enjoy your presence because they feel uplifted when hearing you speak of spiritual things?
- ✚ Have you always wanted to become a priest/deacon/nun but you have kept it as a secret in your heart?
- ✚ Are you afraid to tell your family and friends that you want to become a priest/deacon/nun?
- ✚ Do you feel unworthy of serving God as a priest/deacon/nun?
- ✚ Do you like to serve others?
- ✚ Have others ever told you that you should become a priest/deacon/nun?
- ✚ Do you find that you are different from others and have been told so?
- ✚ Do you feel that while you are in the world, you are not of the world?
- ✚ Are you detached from the worldly ways of fame, pleasures, wealth, believing that there is more to life than what can be gained?
- ✚ Do you have a natural inclination towards doing charitable works?
- ✚ Do you sometimes wish that Jesus would just appear to you and tell you what He wants from you?
- ✚ Has your mind been preoccupied with the fact that you must now make a major decision regarding your future, either to serve God or not?
- ✚ Do you feel guilt eating away at you because you are not pursuing a calling to the religious life?

—Deacon Larry Lawinger, Parishioner

Save the Date:

Breakfast
with Santa



Breakfast with Santa
is coming up on
Saturday, Dec. 11
from 9 am until Noon.

Watch the bulletin in the next few weeks for information on how to buy your tickets, and more details about the event.

**HO-HO-HOPE
TO SEE YOU THERE!**

THE VOICE WANTS TO KNOW

**What Are You Doing
To Live Out Your
Catholic Faith?**

This issue of The St. Vincent Voice includes many articles about faith filled parishioners who are putting their faith to work in their daily lives. We want to know what are you doing to live out your Catholic Faith?

Please e-mail us at editor@saintvdp.org or mail to the parish office to Attn: St. Vincent Voice Editor. Responses may be included in the next newsletter. (Responses may be submitted anonymously.)



Prayers for Lighting Advent Wreath Candles

1st Sunday of Advent

Reader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent. We wait and prepare for the coming of Christ. We light the first Advent candle, the candle of waiting. (Read Isaiah 64:1)

Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

Reader: Let us pray: God of history, we are at the beginning of Advent. We wait and prepare for the coming of your Christ. Guide us in our waiting. Help us prepare our hearts and homes for the birth of the prince of peace. Amen.

2nd Sunday of Advent

Reader: As we light the first candle again, we remember that this is the season of waiting. Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. We light the second candle to remind us that this is the season of hope as we wait for the coming of the Messiah. (Read Isaiah 40:3)

Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

Reader: Let us pray: O God of all hope, we put our trust in you. In looking around our world, we sometimes lose hope. In this season of preparation, give us hope again.

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THE SEASON OF ADVENT

A Season of Waiting, Hope, Joy, and Peace

The Season of Advent begins each new liturgical year. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival". Advent is a time of celebration as we await the birth of Christ, but it is also a time of anticipation as we look forward to the second coming of Christ, when he will bring with him the fullness of the Kingdom of Heaven at the end of times. Christ's coming is a past, a present, and a future event that keeps us singing and rejoicing. Advent reaffirms our preparation and spiritual journey both as an individual and as a community of believers.

Celebrating at home with an Advent wreath, perhaps before the evening meal, can be a wonderful family tradition. The wreath's circle has no beginning and no ending, symbolizing God's love that never ends. Greens decorate the wreath symbolizing everlasting life. We light a series of four violet or dark blue candles, or three violet or dark blue candles and one rose candle for the Third Sunday of Advent ---to remind us that we wait in joy.

—Stephen Baruhart, Director of Worship

FAMILY CORNER

Ideas to Help Deepen Your Family's Faith During Advent

With the season of Advent approaching, we find ourselves with the desire to enrich our families' experiences, but are met with the challenge of finding the time to do anything extra. First, we need to change our thinking from "finding" the time to making the time. If we set simple goals and keep our expectations reasonable, we should be able to accomplish adding something new to our families' traditions. Here are a few ideas to help get you started....

Take A Journey With Mary and Joseph

When setting up your nativity set, place Mary and Joseph across the room and each day take turns moving them closer and closer to the stable. Spend time talking about what the journey may have been like and what they may have seen.



Straw for Baby Jesus

Make a small crib for Jesus and place some shredded paper nearby. Throughout Advent, as a family, do good deeds for each other. Each time someone does a good deed, they get to put a piece of straw in the crib. The goal is to make Jesus' bed as soft as we can.

Set Up an Advent Wreath

Find a nice wreath and candles and set it up at the family dinner table. Plan on at least one meal a week where you all gather together as a family and say a prayer using the Advent wreath. As a family, write a

prayer together that you will use when you light the candles.

Holy Card From the Pope

If you send the Pope a Christmas card and greeting, you will get back a letter with a Christmas holy card. Send to: His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican City State, Europe

Read With Your Children

Some book ideas are: *A Stocking for Jesus* by Suzanne M. Arruda, *A Christmas Interview: Reporting Live From Bethlehem* by Yoshitake Yoshiike, or *Bartholomew's Passage* by Arnold Ytreeide



A New Twist on Secret Santa

Each family member chooses a name, but instead of a small gift each day or an act of kindness, the family members pray for the person that they chose. It's a great opportunity to teach your children different ways to pray.

Wrap a Gift for Jesus

Sit down as a family and think about something you can each do as an act of kindness for another person. Write those acts of kindness on a piece of paper and wrap it with scraps of gift wrap and bows. Put it under your Christmas tree. Share your ideas and whether or not you were able to accomplish them with each other when opening gifts on Christmas day.



—Rebecca Keran, Parishioner





Proceeds support faith formation programs in our parish.

Come to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas



Sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Council of Catholic Women



Come and have a cup of cheer!

DECEMBER 4: 9 AM—5 PM
DECEMBER 5: 8:15 AM—12:30 PM

Featuring...

- Santa Claus
- Over 60 Crafters
- Kid's Crafts on Sat. 9 am-3 pm
- Lunch
- Gourmet Coffee at Java Joe's
- Live Musical Performances
- A Slice of Heaven Bakery – Delicious cookies, bars, breads, candy, lefse and more.
- Raffle
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Parish Fellowship



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Remind us that the one who comes in your name comes to give us wholeness and new life. Amen.

3rd Sunday of Advent

Reader: We light the first two Advent candles, the candles of waiting and hope. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy, to remind us of the joy that will come at Jesus' birth. *(Read Isaiah 61:11)*

Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

Reader: Let us pray: O God, as we near the celebration of Jesus' birth, we are filled with joy and gladness. We know your promises are true. We know the waiting will soon be over. Come into our hearts, and remind us of the joy of this season. Amen.

4th Sunday of Advent

Reader: Today is the last Sunday of Advent. We relight the candles of waiting, hope, and joy. Today we light the fourth candle of peace, to remind us that Christ comes to bring peace. *(Read Luke 1:31)*

Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

Reader: Let us pray: O God, as this season comes to an end, we are excited about the coming of Christmas. In the days ahead, help us to remember that we wait in hope and joy for the coming of the prince of peace. Teach us how to prepare ourselves and our world for the coming of the Christ-child. Amen.

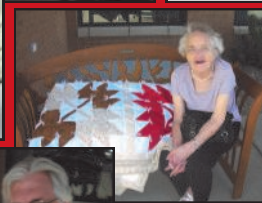
(Source: Ministry & Liturgy)

REMEMBERING...

1,117 pieces of chicken served



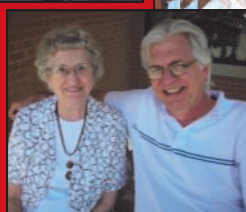
11,665 inflatable slides, climbs, jousts, and jumps



170 faces painted



37,079 raffle tickets sold



2,070 volunteer hours to make it all happen



6,372 bingo cards played



REMEMBERING ...

St. Vincent's School Marathon



The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter Committee

- Marie Henrichs, Parishioner
- Rebecca Keran, Parishioner
- Lisa Price, Parishioner
- Marci Siers, Outreach Commission Member
- Chuck Pratt, Staff Member
- Tammy Peterburs, Editor/Designer, Parishioner

For information on joining the committee, contact Chuck Pratt at 763-425-2210.

ADULT MISSION TRIP TO MONTANA

Rocky Boy Indian Reservation—August 3-10, 2010

Used to think that African culture was the only culture that is “notoriously” religious until we visited this Indian reservation. Native American spirituality has a lot to offer our beloved Catholic tradition in general and each of us in particular as we navigate along our individual spiritual journey. This mission trip was a big eye-opener to all of us who went.

Our parish ambassadors on the trip were: Donna Anderson, Betty Bartos, Janice Gabrick, Beth Gammelgaard, Ursula Godin, Bob & Jane Henke, Jeremy Lawinger, Bob McCaffrey, April Peloquin, Marilyn & George Wishy and Onyi & Okey Anyanwu.

Since solidarity is more about “being with” and less about “doing for,” our success story on this trip is not based on the many projects we completed as the pictures portray, but how much we personified Christ’s love; how much we learned about the world beyond our home base; how much inspiration we experienced - just by interacting with this beautiful community and their down-to-earth Pastor, Fr. Peter Guthneke. We were richly blessed and we are grateful for the opportunity.

Enjoy the visuals!

—Okey Anyanwu, Pastoral Minister



LET'S HEAR FROM OUR TEENS

2011 World Youth Day



Over the past few months, you might have been hearing a lot about the upcoming World Youth Day Trip. Previously I have discussed how you can help, where we are going, and why we are traveling to Madrid, Spain. Today I am going to stop talking and let you hear from some of the teens and adults that are traveling on this adventure.

Recently I asked them a few questions about why they were going on World Youth Day and what they hoped to get out of this trip. I was so impressed when I read all of their responses, that I asked if any of them would be willing to share their answers with the St. Vincent de Paul community. I hope that after reading these amazing words written by the young people, you are as impressed with them as I am.

Here is what they had to say...

Why am I going on World Youth Day?

- "I am going because I think it will be exciting to see all the different countries and cultures coming together as one to worship God."~Nicole Toay
- "I am going on World Youth Day to deepen my faith, to see the Pope and to visit Spain."~Gaby Castillo-Cowart
- "I hope to grow comfortable and confident with my faith. I hope to get a better understanding of God and the Catholic Church."~Alex Gray
- "It is my hope that I can lead this beautiful group of teens to holiness on this pilgrimage, especially through my example and through the love of the Lord and the Church."~Emily Dourney (adult)
- "I went on World Youth Day 2008 and it was an awesome experience. It is a great faith opportunity and I really enjoyed being with the youth."~Bill Goers (adult)

What am I nervous about?

- "I am the most nervous about not having enough time to experience all that I hope to."~Emily Doran
- "I am nervous about following the wrong person in a line and getting lost."~Adam Hammer
- "I'm honestly not nervous, just really excited for this awesome trip. I fully expect something to be unexpected or different than planned, and I actually look forward to that."~Kaitlin Kasprick
- "That I'll lose a kid. Not really, but I'm not really nervous about anything except that my brother is going and if I lost him my mom would probably kill me."~Samantha Gray (adult)

What do I hope to learn about myself?

- "I hope to learn about what I want to do with my life. I also hope to learn about how to deal with life situations in foreign places and how to react to different people."~Kristin Carman

- "I hope that I am more adventurous than I thought and that I can survive the trip without the many comforts of home."~Haylee Schumacher
- "I hope to reaffirm my faith through watching the teen's faith journey. To see their eyes light up because of Christ is a tremendous experience."~Nicole Casebolt (adult)

What do I hope to learn about God and my Faith?

- "I hope to learn how to grow my current relationship with God."~Grant Bauer
- "I want to grow closer to God and I want to be more focused in prayer and learn new things about my Catholic faith."~Alicia Newman
- "I hope to deepen my faith by spending time with a million of our closest friends in faith."~Suzanne Maes-Toay (adult)
- "I hope to remember that while I still need to find faith each day, it has been there and will always be there for me."~Matt Korus (adult)

— Molly Schorr Director of Youth Ministry



The flamingo flocking fundraiser this past summer was one way the teens earned money for their trip to World Youth Day 2011.





The St. Vincent Voice

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The mission of our newsletter is to provide all registered parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with an interesting and engaging publication that includes detailed articles about the people and events of our parish, education about our Catholic faith, and inspiration to deepen their relationship with God and the Church.

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SYMBOLS OF FAITH

The Poinsettia Plant



The Christmas season is an exciting time of celebration. Displays of trees, brightly shining stars and colorful plants decorate nearly everywhere. Many of these decorations are placed in stores, offices and homes every year without much thought. But if we look closely at these objects, nearly all of the decorations we use at this time have a deeper meaning. This meaning is significant because it brings us back to the real reason we celebrate Christmas; the birth of Christ. Surprisingly, even some of the plants that bloom at this time resonate with the birth of Christ. The Poinsettia is one such decoration.

A plant native to Mexico, the Poinsettia was brought to the United States by Dr. Joel Poinsett. The plant derived its very name from Dr. Poinsett who served as the first United States Ambassador to Mexico. It has a deep history, tracing back as far as the Aztecs of Mexico. It is known by many names such as the Flame Leaf and Flower of the Holy Night. [source: *Poinsettia pages at the University of Illinois*] This blooming plant has many legends associated with its use at Christmas time. All of the legends related with the Poinsettia have a child, or children, bringing a meager gift of plants to Baby Jesus at a manger scene in a village. A miracle occurred

when presented; the weeds blossomed and looked like radiant, red stars.

While many of the legends' details vary, they all share the same meaning; the humble offering of gifts to Baby Jesus. They parallel the Gospel of Matthew which details the wise men visiting and bringing gifts to Baby Jesus. The flowers are no ordinary flowers, they bloom a vibrant red and are in the shape of a star. The red color may serve as a reminder of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us all. The star shape is not a coincidence either; it may symbolize the Star of Bethlehem that shone the night that Jesus was born.

Many of us can get caught up in the hustle-and-bustle of the Christmas season. When decorating for Christmas, pay close attention to the same decorations pulled out each year. You may find a renewed sense of purpose in each item. Not only can you find the traditions comforting at a time when commercialism seems prevalent, you can find a deeper meaning in the act of decorating. The stars hung on our tree can remind us of the star that shone above Jesus the night he was born and the lights twinkling from the tree can remind us that a light was created to show us the way. Similarly, the blooming Poinsettias that decorate our homes may remind us of the Star of Bethlehem and the beauty in a humble gift to a loved one.

— Marie Heinrichs, Parishioner