

# PRINCE OF PEACE

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Help the Less Fortunate in Our Community through the Sharing Tree

Every year, at the beginning of Advent, Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace Parish displays a beautiful Christmas tree at the back of the church with handmade paper ornaments. This tree is more than just a decoration intended to put parishioners and visitors in the Christmas spirit, however. In fact, it is an outlet and opportunity for the members of our parish family to help the less fortunate in our community at Christmastime.

For 24 years, our community has facilitated the Sharing Tree ministry to support the Holiday Network, an initiative of the local RSVP office with the goal of making the Christmas wishes of needy families in Clinton come true.

"It's unique to this area because everything is centralized, so they can keep track of what each family gets," says Deb Bly, who coordinates the Sharing Tree ministry. "They'll send forms home with the school children in Clinton, and the families can fill out any help or needs they may have at Christmas. The Holiday Network will provide wrapped gifts, socks, underwear,

and other needs. We have the ages and genders of the kids, so that we know who we're buying for, but we don't know the last names, so it's very confidential, which is wonderful."

At the end of November, Deb obtains about 400 names and genders of kids from the ages of 2 to 12 whose parents have indicated a need for help to the Holiday Network. Deb and a team of volunteers write the information of each child on handmade paper ornaments, which they place on the Sharing Tree before the first week of Advent. Parishioners then have an opportunity to take the ornaments home, purchase and gift-wrap a gift for the child indicated on the ornament, and place the gift under the Sharing Tree with its ornament attached.

"When you see the gifts, it really touches your heart," Deb says. "Some of them



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# Advent: *A Journey of Anticipation*



**A**dvent is a time of preparation for the arrival of our Savior. (The word “advent” itself means “coming.”) Associated with personal reflections on the birth of Christ, Advent often is considered merely a symbolic period of waiting. Yet, in the Book of Matthew, Christ directly reminds us of His second coming: “So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Advent, therefore, carries a twofold purpose, as explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: “For by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for this second coming.”

Today, in a society that moves at such a fast pace, there is a tendency to lump Advent and Christmas together when, in fact, they are two distinct liturgical seasons in our Catholic Faith.

While Christmas includes the Birth of Our Lord, the Feast of the Holy Family, the Epiphany, and the Baptism of Our Lord, the Advent season shouldn’t be overlooked, as it contains many rich traditions and feast days of its own, including the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother (a holy day of obligation) on Dec. 8 and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12.

Advent is the season of anticipation of the mystery of the incarnation, and is a time for spiritual renewal and preparation. Yet, for many of us, Advent is filled by one long pre-Christmas “to-do” list. Choosing, buying, and

wrapping gifts. Getting Christmas cards to the post office in time. Planning your family Christmas dinner.

Once Christmas Day arrives, many of us are glad, not because Advent is over and we are finally able to joyously celebrate Christ’s arrival, but because we’re so relieved that all the stress and work of the Christmas holidays is finally over!

So how can we change the way we experience Advent? There are many ways in which we can fully participate in this beautiful season:

- Start Advent traditions in your home, like lighting an Advent Wreath and discussing weekly readings.
- Take food to those who are hungry, blankets to those who are cold, toys to children who have nothing to play with.
- Attend a communal penance service.
- Since Advent is the beginning of our liturgical year, it is also the perfect time to make your New Year’s resolutions instead of waiting for Jan. 1
- An Advent wreath as a centerpiece, and displaying an Advent calendar in your home, are both wonderful traditions to share with your children.

Throughout Advent, let us commit ourselves to spending time in prayerful expectation, so that when Christmas Day arrives, we will be able to fully welcome Christ into our homes and hold Him in our hearts.

## A Steward's Response to the Ultimate Christmas Gift

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is America's favorite holiday. The amount of effort we put into decorating our homes and churches – the money we spend to buy presents for family members, friends, and coworkers – the hours we devote to addressing Christmas cards and attending seasonal get-togethers – all taken together stagger the imagination. Whatever's next, Valentine's or Halloween or Thanksgiving, can't hold a candle to our investment in Christmas.

Don't get me wrong. I love Christmas, too. But I'm afraid that many of us somehow miss the main reason for our Christmas celebrations.

I've sometimes heard people say things like, "Getting everything ready for Christmas becomes so hectic, I don't want to do it every year. But, you know, Christmas is really for the children." And occasionally I've heard or read in a letter to the editor that Christmas is about the hope that a newborn baby brings to the world. Even in the early winter, when the days are short, we can celebrate babyhood, a new human life.

Both those sentiments miss the point because they're too limited. Christmas is really for adults! Of course, it's true that many of our Christmas customs are for the children. And it's true that the birth of a baby, any baby, brings joy and hope to all those around. Yes, many of our Christmas celebrations are centered on the children, and the birth of a child offers a promise for the future.

But Christmas is for adults because, at Christmas, we celebrate not just any baby, but a particular baby. And we celebrate his birth *not* because it's cute to see a baby in a manger filled with hay and surrounded by farm ani-



mals. Instead, we celebrate this birth because of who this baby is and what he did as an adult. And only those with an adult faith can fully appreciate the significance of this birth.

A human baby is certainly a wonderful creation, made in the image of God. But Jesus is more than that, for he is God the Son who took on human nature in order to redeem us from the sin into which we had fallen. He didn't stay a baby. He grew up and taught and preached and healed. Finally, he was put to death "for our sake," as the Creed affirms, and rose to life again. That's why we celebrate his birth more than two thousand years later. That's why normal routines are suspended for a few joyful days each year.

Yes, Christmas is for adults. Of course, it's for children as well, for everyone benefits from this birth. And in response to the gift the Father gave us with the birth of his Son, we joyfully exchange gifts with each other, and share with the poor, and offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to the Church. God gives to us. As stewards, we do our best to faithfully give to others.

A joyful and blessed Christmas to all of you, whatever your age may be!

In Christ the Lord,

Fr. Ken Kuntz  
Pastor

## Using Talents to Enhance the *Art and Environment Comm*



*The Christmas Creche*



*The front of the church*



*The side entrance of the church with hanging baskets for decoration*

As Chairman of the Art and Environment Committee, Ray Mantsch knows what it means to use your talents for the Church.

“It’s one of the things I try to do without getting in the way of other people too much,” Ray says. “It’s something I can do that I have some ability in and I enjoy doing.”

Ray is responsible for planning and organizing the flowers, plants and other decorations in and around the church. He orders the flowers — which are funded in part by the parishioners and Ladies Auxiliary — and is also involved in arranging them. This is something Ray does throughout the year, but he puts even more effort towards this ministry during certain seasons in the liturgical calendar, such as Advent and Lent, and major feasts like Christmas and Easter.

“It enhances the program and the liturgy,” Ray says. “It’s not only an expression of our celebration to have it looking nice, but I think it enhances the liturgical seasons.”

Ray is not alone in this service. There are several other volunteers who help out on a regular basis, such as Mary Nord, Rosemary Rickerl, Sally Kremer and Deacon Jeff Schuetzle. These parishioners help arrange, maintain and water the plants and flowers in and around the church, including the hanging baskets in the walkway to the side entrance of the church. Bev Putman helped Ray and his wife put together a Prince of Peace Visitors Guide, which explains many of the church’s features.

“I try to make it an effort to have other people involved, because it’s no fun to do it yourself,” Ray says. “Well, it is fun to do it yourself, but the idea is to have more people involved. And we’re doing things to get others involved. And people have other ideas and other perspectives, and it’s good to have other voices.”

Ray has been involved in planning, arranging and maintaining floral church decorations for over 20 years. He used to work in a greenhouse and delivered flowers to five different churches. As time went by, churches

# Liturgy Committee



*Ray making the entrance cross for the Mass for Pope John Paul II's Beatification*

closed down and so did the greenhouse. Now Ray focuses his talent on our parish and keeping our church festive.

"It should add to the liturgical celebration and it should enhance the Mass," Ray says. "Not only for the daily Masses, when we have it looking nice like someone is interested in keeping the altar nice, but on feast days, keeping it elaborate enough, because this is a special day and we want to celebrate it."

The work that Ray and the others do has an obvious benefit for us, but they also benefit from their service.

"It definitely makes me feel like I'm doing something," Ray says. "Like I'm supposed to be doing something for the Church, giving back. I feel like it's my turn, my time. These are things I can do. These are talents I have that I can use for the Church."

For more information on the Art and Environment Committee, call Ray Mantsch at 563-243-8151.

## Sharing Tree

*continued from front cover*

are so elaborate; they have candy canes or little mittens hanging off of them. I can't say enough good things about how generous our parishioners have been over the years. They've really come through, and they will go all out for one child."

When all of the gifts are returned, Deb and a group of National Honor Society students from Prince of Peace Catholic High School sort the gifts by family and place them in bags for the RSVP office volunteers to pick up and distribute to the families in need.

"They'll have the families come down a few days before Christmas and pick up their gifts for Christmas morning, and it's very heartwarming to see how appreciative the families are to have them in time to give to their children at Christmas."

All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to participate by taking a tag and purchasing a gift, but volunteers are also needed to help make the tags and sort the presents. Deb points out that this is a great way to help carry out our mission of outreach in loving imitation of Christ.

"As Catholics, we learn to help and reach out to others, and that's what our mission should be: helping others in any way we can," she says. "And by helping others, we are able to show the community that Prince of Peace Parish truly does care. As a parish, what better way to pull together than to help somebody that needs it?"

For more information on the Sharing Tree ministry, or to volunteer, please contact the parish office at 563-242-3311.

## Sponsor Couples Gearing up for Marriage Preparation Season

There is something romantic about the holidays that always seems to produce plenty of new engagements amongst the young couples of our parish community.

A Catholic Nuptial Mass only lasts an hour, but the marriage that results from it lasts a lifetime. Accordingly, the parish takes very seriously its responsibility of working with engaged couples to provide a firm foundation for their marriage.

For 15 years Tom and Jeni Van Buer have been participating as a sponsor couple for engaged couples.

"We meet with the engaged couple and talk through a variety of topics relating to marriage that they might not have given much thought to," Jeni says. "That can range from big things like finances, communication, sexuality and prayer to simpler questions like where you are going to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas."

The sponsor couple meetings are just one portion of a well-balanced marriage preparation program at the parish.

"The couple will work with the priest on some things, with the parish staff on planning the actual ceremony and then with a sponsor couple to get a sense of living out a Catholic marriage," Jeni says. "Typically the four or five meetings take place in the sponsor couple's home. When you're sitting around for two to three hours you want to be comfortable, so we usually do it in our living room. We strive to always have the last meeting in a dinner setting with our children present. It's nice for the engaged couple to see the Catholic family at home."

In the Van Buers' experience, the engaged couples seem to have enjoyed and profited from the meetings.

"I think some of them were a bit anxious about how it might go, talking through things with a couple they



*Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Van Buer, Dec. 31, 1988*

didn't know," Tom says. "But the majority come back saying that they enjoyed the experience and got something out of it to take into their marriages. We've met a lot of great couples over the years and have even been to several of their weddings and stayed in contact with some of them."

The Van Buers are one of six sponsor couples that participate each year; there are a few others that also fill in as needed. How-

ever, there is always a need for more couples to step forward and participate.

"It would be great to have 10 or even 12 sponsor couples," Jeni says. "Since this program has to accommodate the demands of both couples' schedules the more couples we have the better. Plus, it's nice to be able to pair people up by background to some extent so that everyone is always comfortable."

Many of the sponsor couples find that their marriages tend to benefit from the discussions as well.

"We always say our marriage benefits as much as the engaged couple," Tom says. "We use a workbook at the meetings and with all of the 18 couples we've worked with we have followed through each chapter focusing on our marriage. It's a great refresher!"

Any married couples interested in getting trained to participate can call the Van Buers directly at 563-242-8543. The sponsor couple ministry will also hold a meeting for all current or potential sponsor couples on Wednesday, Jan 11th, 7-8:30pm at the Van Buer's home.

Ideally the parish would like to spread the marriage preparation process out over several months. Accordingly, any engaged couples that are planning to get married at Prince of Peace should contact the parish office as early as possible.

# Sacraments and New Parish Families

## **BAPTISMS:**

Hannah Rose Eshelman  
Ella Louannda Eshelman  
Brittany Marie Eshelman  
Amberly Ann Eshelman  
Tabitha Beth Eshelman  
Elias Eugene Eshelman  
Mason Christopher French  
Maddox Jordan Mojeiko  
Brenden Lee McCulloh  
Conrad Josiah Kroymann  
Ava Rae Bousman  
Samuel John Sisneros  
Ashanti Lynn Cousins  
Brianna Lyn Cousins  
Jonah Paul Rogis  
Cambyl Judith Michelle Sattler  
Matthew Michael Dermody  
Henry Allen Greve  
Landon David Bork  
David Peralta-Flores  
Melany Haydee Ruiz  
Juan Pablo Ruiz  
Andrew Cash Determan  
Raegan Hope Schoenfeld  
Tenley Elizabeth Cewe  
Eva Lynn Peart  
Edward Xavier Androski  
Lillie Renee Schultz  
Kaylee Clare Rickertsen  
Lucas Anthony Smith  
Iyla Rose Remrey  
Lily Ann Remrey  
Athena Fae Sentore  
Madison Lynn Swanton  
Elizabeth Tecuapetla Marcos  
Lillian Kathryn Zerr

## **WEDDINGS:**

Heather Anne Parker &  
Nicholas Edward Carlson  
Jennifer Lynn Determan &  
Darin Joseph Kilburg  
Laura Christine Eads &  
Tyler James Fabian  
Brianna Michelle Flood &  
Spenser David Mussmann  
Emily Rosanne Aude &  
Nathan Leonard Johnson  
Sarah Kathleen Rolfes &  
Gregory James Manning  
Kristen Michelle Winkel &  
Corey Lee Gherke  
Kehly Marie Kennedy &  
Hunter John Simington  
Marie Ofelia Pachuca Facio &  
Armando Cuatlatl Marcos  
Elena Marie Caudillo &  
Michael Steven Reddersdorf  
Katherine Ann Shaw &  
Adam Bryan Aude  
Clemencia Paliero Tecuapetla &  
Javier Cuatlatl Marcos  
Jinny Linn Krogman &  
Andrew O'Brien Senn  
Karen Kay McManus &  
Shane Anthony Bark

## **FUNERALS:**

Myron Eugene Donahey  
Donna McDonnell  
Jean A. Honeywell  
Jill M. Pearson  
Elmer John Ullrich  
Norma J. Jacobs  
Margaret Mary Frett  
Alice Marie (Rickerl) Pringle  
Laurel Ann Perion  
Genevieve "Gen" Springer

LeRoy Jacobsen  
Jane Domsalla  
Jed Jeremiah Rogis  
Irene Mae (Thomas) Foley  
Ellen Jacobs  
Dennis Manning  
Raymond Joseph Vens  
Marc John Jost  
Richard Thomas Capella  
Sarah M. Holliday

## **NEW PARISHIONERS:**

Corey & Deanna Aljets  
Luis Humberto Alvarez  
Vanessa Alvarez  
Sr. Vicky Arndorfer  
Christine Barber  
Candace Brennan  
Casey Calmes & Mary Moore  
Jessica Determan  
Lawrence & Margaret Fogg  
Sharon Gilbert  
Edgar Gonzalez & Angela Sotero  
Bryce & Erin Griswold  
Shannelle Jackson  
Jerrie Johnston  
Mandi Lemke  
Diane McConnell  
Gloria McDonnell  
Andrew McEleney  
Lloyd Mether  
Lindsay Mussman  
Jason & Rebecca Rickertsen  
Carlie & Judith Seamer  
Edward Shannon  
Lisa Smith  
Ifedapo & Jackie Sonuga  
Patricia Sparks  
Gary & Cheryl Taplin  
Scott Wenzel  
Nicole Wood



# Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace Catholic Church

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## Mass Schedule

**Saturday**, 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday**, 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## SEASONAL EVENTS 2011

### **December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

*(Holy Day of Mass Obligation)*

Masses at 6:30 p.m. (Vigil Mass on Dec. 7),  
7 a.m., 8:30 a.m. (all school Mass in the gym),  
5:30 p.m.

### **December 5, Blue Christmas Service**

7 p.m. at Prince of Peace Church

### **December 15, Morning of Reflection**

9-11 a.m. at St. Boniface Hall

### **December 17, Advent Communal Penance Service**

11 a.m. at Prince of Peace Church

### **December 24, Christmas Eve**

Masses at 4 p.m., 8 p.m., and 11 p.m.

### **December 25, Christmas Day**

Mass at 9 a.m.

*NO 6 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day*

### **December 30, Feast of the Holy Family**

8 a.m. (Regular Daily Mass Schedule)

### **Regular Mass Schedule the weekend of**

**December 31 and January 1**

*(5 p.m., 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.)*

December 2011