

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2007

St. Veronica

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

353 E. NORWICH ST. • MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

*WELCOME TO THE
CATHOLIC FAITH
COMMUNITY OF
ST. VERONICA PARISH!*

If you are visiting St. Veronica from another parish or if you are new to the area, we are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us.

We welcome you to become a member of our parish family. Please visit the information kiosk in the church hallway or visit our website at www.saintveronica.org

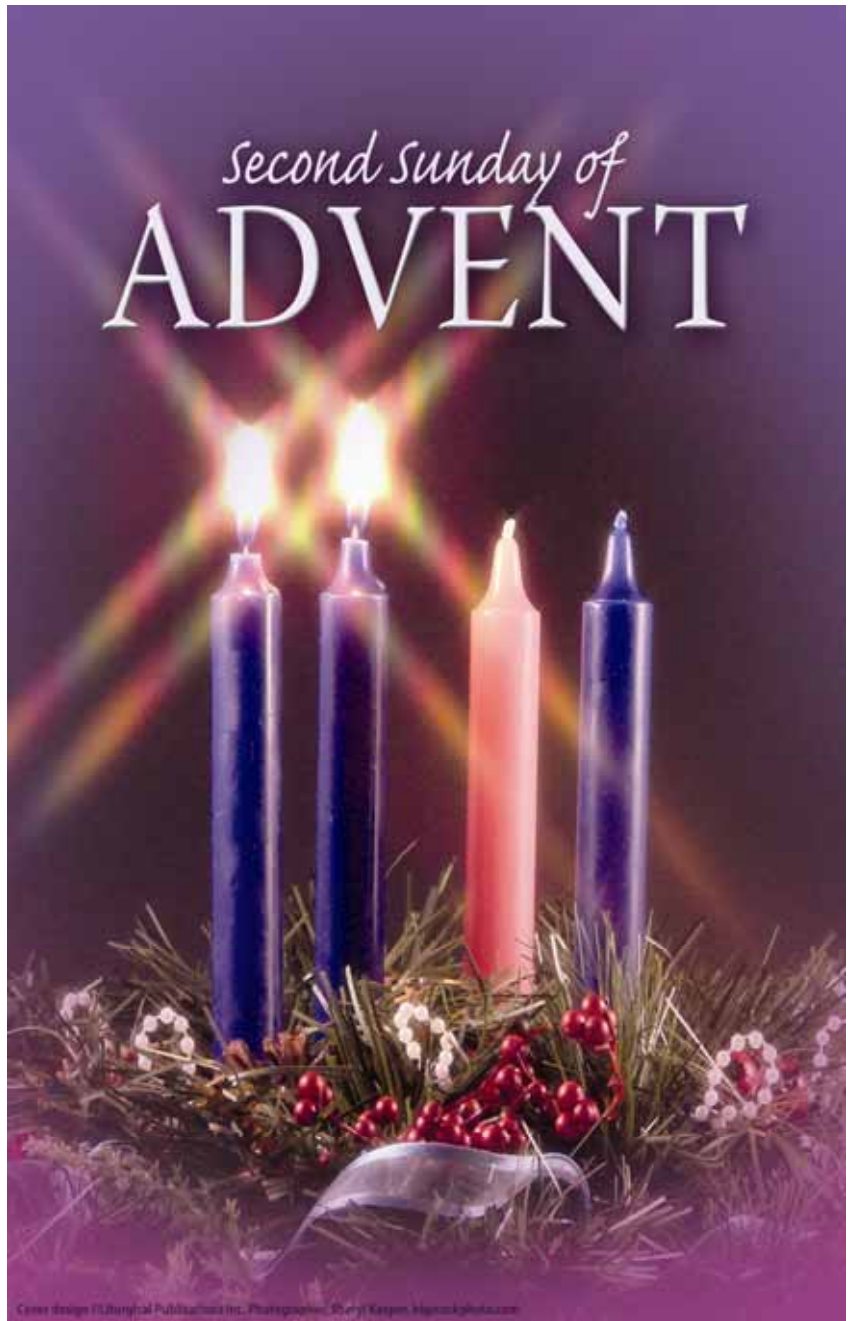
Sacraments

Baptisms: The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month. Contact the parish office to pick up registration materials. Parents are required to attend one Baptismal preparation class.

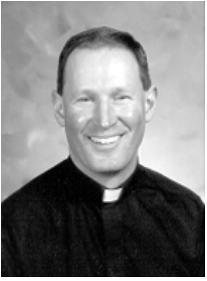
Marriage: We celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage for only our registered parish members. Please phone the parish office one year in advance to schedule a meeting with the priest, before you book other arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick/Pastoral Visits: We are always willing to stop by your home or hospital. Please notify us when you or a family member is in need of a visit. The hospitals do not notify us. Anointing of the Sick will occur after every weekend Mass on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Reconciliation: 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 3:30 pm before the 4:30 pm Mass and every 3rd Thursday following the 8:15 am Mass.



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From the Desk of Fr. Mark,

Last Sunday, our gospel called us to “stay awake” and be attentive. The homily took that theme from the perspective of the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life.” George Bailey was a man who was “asleep”. He was unaware of his importance to his community and his own family members. George actually was an unhappy man struggling to set his own course in life. Every time he thought he would be given the break that he needed to venture off to tour the world and do what he wanted to do, he was held back. Poor George feared that he would be stuck in Bedford Falls the rest of his life. The straw that broke the camels back occurred when his uncle lost a large deposit that was vital to the business, thus plunging George into serious financial woe. What was George going to do? Well, George comes to the conclusion that his family and friends would be better off without him.

Ready to plunge himself into the river, he is introduced to God’s loving presence through his guardian angel. This moment begins the “awakening” in George that leads to a deeper understanding of his life. It is a life that is worth living, a “wonderful life,” that is recognized only when he was “awake” to God’s presence.

This Advent season is a time to reflect upon our own lives and awaken to God’s presence to see how God works through each of us. During Advent, the homilies will use the movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life” to bring forth each aspect of the readings.

This weekend, we have John the Baptist, whose fiery words are sent out to all to rethink the way they are living. In the movie, we meet George’s guardian angel Clarence, who brings clearness to George’s understanding of who he is and how important he is to his family. George struggles accepting what God is doing in his life. George states very strongly, “I wish I had never been born.” Clarence listens to George and grants him his wish. The story goes on to show what a different world it is when George is not a part of it. George is awakened to the fact that his life touched many lives. He had been blinded by his own way. He was so angry that he never was given a chance to do what he wanted to do, that he missed all of the joy that was present to him at the moment. Anger can blind all of us, wanting something so badly that we miss the road that leads to joy which is in front of us. John the Baptist pointed to the right path by pointing to a life that is aware of the need to know what is right from wrong. Clarence’s voice helps George to redirect his path so that he could appreciate what he has and who he is in his family and community.

The voice of John the Baptist can be our guardian angel this coming season. He is “A voice crying out in the wilderness,” preparing us for the fullness of Christmas during this Advent season.

If you have not watched the movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life” please take some time to do so. The homilies will continue to have examples from the movie trying to bring the fullness of the season into some practical applications.

Blessings, Fr. Mark



St. Veronica will offer their Advent Communal Penance service on Wednesday, December 19 at 7 pm.

New Secretary Trustee

We wish to Welcome Patti Jeffers, our new Secretary Trustee who will replace Phyllis Logan. We want to thank Phyllis for her many years of service as Secretary Trustee.

History of Oplatek

For many families, especially those of Polish, Lithuanian, Czech and Slovak heritage, the sharing of Oplatek before the Christmas Eve meal is the core and essence of the celebration. Oplatek is a thin, unleavened wafer similar to that used for Communion. Impressed into the wafers are various images from the Nativity story. Before the meal begins, the oldest person present reads the Nativity narrative written by St. Luke. Afterward, he or she takes the wafer, breaks it and shares it with the next person in line. Each person then shares their piece with everyone and sentiments of best wishes are exchanged.

In an age when we too often do not speak words of love and gratitude to our family members until it is too late, this is a beautiful tradition you may wish to honor in your home. Many people take some of the holy wafer to those relatives who are confined to nursing or care facilities. Or they send a piece of it in Christmas cards to relatives who are out of town. Packets of Oplatek are available on the communion railing for \$1 per packet.

Prayer for Advent

Dear God,

As an Advent candle is lit in joyous anticipation of your Son’s nativity, remind us always of the reason of our joy. As the purple of the candles stands for both penance and atonement for sin, give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs, and to love Christ, whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world. But just as the rose candle stands for joy in the midst of suffering and exception, give us the joy of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior, and made the angels themselves sing with joy at his birth. Amen
Lpi,2007



- Inspires people to Meet Christ
- Teaches people to Know Christ
- Helps people to Live Christ by serving Him and others.



Did you know.....

Human embryos already fertilized don't have to be destroyed through research, but can be adopted?

Dr. David Prentice, nationally-known stem cell expert will speak January 13, 2008 at Immaculate Conception Parish-Ryan Hall, at 10:45 am. Light fare will be provided. Ryan Hall is located at 1023 E. Russell Ave. Park in the parking lot near the east end of the school building. For more information, call JoAnn Gates at: 482-0823.

Grief Support Group

St. Veronica Grief Support Group will meet on Saturday, December 15, from 10 – 11 am at the parish office. Please encourage your loved ones who have lost a loved one to attend the group.

Suggested Pro-Life Prayer

That we recognize the humanity of each person, especially those whose age and fragile condition leave them vulnerable to euthanasia, we pray.

Pro-Life Reflection

“The world lies to us sometimes and tries to convince us that having our plans and lives disrupted or inconvenienced is not necessary and is to be avoided at all costs. But truly it is in these very disruptions and supposed inconveniences that the purest blessings may arrive.” (Brenda Hanson, the mother of a Down syndrome child, who resisted pressure to abort her daughter Sarah. *NRL News*, June 2007.



St. V's Pantry Food of the Month

From time to time, the question is asked: “*What food do you need in the food pantry?*” The specific food item requested for the month of DECEMBER is *instant potatoes*. Donations may be dropped off in the Ushers room or brought to the parish office.

Human Concerns

Prayer Network

In November, there were more than 105 requests for our prayers called in to our Prayer Network or written in our parish Book of Intercessions.

Intentions included: Employment - Family guidance - Family healing - Healing from accidents, surgery, illness, depression etc. - Peace- Peace after death of a loved one - Peaceful death - Safe travel - Special intentions - Spiritual guidance - Success in job - Thanksgiving. Please remember all prayer requests in your prayers. Become a part of Pope Benedict XVI's prayer group. The general intention recommended by the Holy Father for DECEMBER is: (Those Suffering from AIDS) That society may care for those stricken with AIDS, especially women and children, and that the Church may help them feel the Lord's love. The mission intention is: (Asia) That the incarnation of the Son of God may help the peoples of Asia recognize Jesus as God's Envoy, the only Savior of the world. <http://apostleshishopofprayer.org> “As a society we are witnessing the fruits of the abortion mentality. Is it any wonder that we have created a culture of violence? We need to repudiate all forms of violence. Jesus offered the way — demanding but fruitful. Prayer does change hearts. The current culture of violence will yield only to that spiritual force that first touches and then changes individual hearts. Prayer does work and it must be our instrument of change.” Homily of Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, Pro-Life Mass, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. January 22, 2007. www.usccb.org/prolife

TIME	CAPTAIN	PHONE
7-12 pm	Jeanette Kuechenmeister	481-6224
12 pm-3 pm	Lucille Devine	529-8570
3-5 pm	Cecilia Bonczkowski	744-9406
5-7 pm	Helen Rewolinski	744-4139

Intentions left on a Captain's answering machine will be taken care of

Christmas Dinner Baskets

Boy Scout Troop 208 is collecting money to purchase food for Christmas Dinner Baskets to be distributed to people served by St. Veronica's Food Pantry. The Scouts are taking on this service project to continue the work begun last year by Zach LaPointe in his Eagle service project.

Your donation of \$25 would be used by the Scouts to purchase the food which they would assemble in baskets and distribute at the Food Pantry on December 15.

If you are unable to give your donation to the Scouts who will be collecting them after all masses this weekend please put it in an envelope marked "Troop 208 Pantry Christmas Baskets" and bring it to church next weekend or drop it at the Parish office or you may mail it to *Tim Ewert 3770 E. Plankinton Ave Cudahy, WI 53110* by December 10. Please make checks payable to *Boy Scout Troop 208*. If you have any questions please contact Tim Ewert at 581-1713. Your support is appreciated as Troop 208 carries on a service that was much appreciated by the Food Pantry clients last year and helped to make their Christmas a little brighter. God Bless You.

Open Door Free Health Clinic

The Open Door Free Clinic, for the uninsured and underinsured, will be open Wed, Dec 12, 19 and 26. The clinic is located inside Unity Lutheran Church, 1025 E. Oklahoma Ave. Sign-in time is 5:30 pm and the medical staff will see patients from 6:00-8:30 pm.

Presents for Pantry Kids

Reminder, your unwrapped gifts should be returned by today, December 9. Thank you to all who participated.





Winter is upon us and when it gets dark early and cold outside, it reminds us of all we are thankful for and all that we can do to show our gratitude. We started with our Thanksgiving Food Drive, which collected over 2000 canned/boxed food items. These

items were divided up between three of our parishes (We will donate food and items to our other three parishes later). We will be making cards and gifts for our home bound and nursing home parishioners too.

We have been preparing for our annual Christmas Program. This is a great event that showcases our students' beautiful singing voices. It will be held December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Veronica's Church.

Finally, we started our Advent Calendar. This year we are reading and praying the Stations of Advent—a journey that we are walking to bring us closer to God as we get closer to Jesus' birth. May you too remember "the reason for the season". *Blessings, Mary Stallmann*

Lectionary Link

This week we are celebrating the second Sunday of Advent.

Adult: In your own sphere of influence, what situations call out for justice and peace? What can you do about them this week?

Child: What would the world be like if everyone did what God wanted them to do?

Readings for the Week of December 9

- Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-
- Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



Parish Financial Stewardship for the Week Ending 11/25

Offertory	\$ 724.99
Stewardship	7,728.77
Feed & Shelter the Poor	279.00
Fr. Mark's Wish List	<u>454.00</u>
Total	\$9,186.76

**The Pack Your Own
Packer Party for December 16
has been cancelled.**



2008 Pallottine Horizons Trip May 12-17, 2008 A Trip to The Smokies Featuring Pigeon Forge, TN and Bardstown, KY

Join the Pallottines for a 6 day/5night trip from St. Vincent Pallotti with Brother Jim Scarpace, Betty Reichertz, the Pallottines and Caritas Christi. Some of the attractions we will see: *Sacred Heart of Jesus Church; Biltmore Mansion, Col Sanders Museum, Great Smoky National Park, Dollywood and Mass at St. Joseph Proto Cathedral.* Transportation will be provided by Lamers, Deluxe Motor Coach Tour. Room Rates Double, \$799 per person, Triple, \$749 per person, Quad, \$725 and Single, \$999. A total of 11 meals (5 continental breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners) are included. There is a \$100 per person deposit required to secure reservations, which are on a first come basis. For more information, contact Brother Jim Scarpace, 258-0653, ext 165.

Parish Council Agenda Tuesday December 11, 7:05pm



1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of November 07 Minutes
3. Approval of Representative's Reports
4. New Business
5. Closing Prayer



Today the liturgy turns to John the Baptist, one of the primary figures of Advent. What an entrance John make in today's Gospel. He appears, the Gospel attests, preaching fire and brimstone. He reminds us of the urgency of Advent and the radical transformation of our lives to which the season calls us. The Lord is coming. Let your repentance and your preparing show in your lives.

Our observation of Advent is meant, like our observance of every other liturgical season, to change us. It is meant to have an effect upon our lives and the way we live as followers of Christ, as members of the Church. When Christmas arrives, we should be changed different from how we were when Advent began. This transformation is the essence of John the Baptist's preaching.

Sourcebook, 2008

The community of St. Veronica wishes to warmly welcome these families who have recently joined the parish.

- Jean Fugina*
- Rolando & Erene Guevarra Family*
- Magdalena Herrera Family*
- Yvonne Jager Family*
- Pauline Jasso Family*
- Michael & Mary Kay Kais Family*
- Judith Kolivoda*
- Christian & Dawn Miaskowski Family*
- Bryan Manasala*
- Bridget McNair Family*
- Abelardo & Janet Ravanilla*
- Andrew & Karen Weber Family*



Note:

The parish office will close at 11 am on Friday, December 14, so the staff can attend their Christmas party.

~Mass Intentions~

Sunday, December 9 Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am For Our Parishioners
 10:30 am † John Czuta (Family)
 † Cornelia Wisniewski (J. & N. Wietzychowski)
 † Eugene Stawicki (Family)
 † Lawrence Kulinski (Family)
 † Marilyn Davis (Family)

Monday, December 10

- 8:15 am Communion Service

Tuesday, December 11

- 8:15 am
 6:30 pm † Ronald Brzozowy (Family & Friends)

Wednesday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 8:15 am

Thursday, December 13 St. Lucy

- 8:15 am

Friday, December 14 John of the Cross

- 8:15 am † James and Joseph Ploszay (S. Schwab)
 † Robert Schwingshakl (Family)
 † Yolanda Bell (J. Jones)

Saturday, December 15

- 4:30 pm † Elizabeth Huberty (Family)
 † Pat Russart (Family)
 † Agnes Keehn (J. Lemmer)
 † Emily Maier (Family)

Sunday, December 16 Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am † James Lipp (Family & Friends)
 † Regina Johnson (Family)
 10:30 am For Our Parishioners

Parish Meetings and Events

Sunday, December 9

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 8:30 am | RCIA | Assisi |
| 9 am | SRE | School |
| 9 am | St. Veronica/St. Paul YM | Johnson Hall |
| 11:30 am | St. Veronica/St. Paul YM | Johnson Hall |
| 7 pm | Women's Bible Group | Assisi |
| 7:30 pm | M.A.L.E.S. | POMR |

Monday, December 10

- 7 pm Baptismal Prep at St. Augustine

Tuesday, December 11

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------|--------|
| 5:15 pm | Adult Bible Study | POMR |
| 7:05 pm | Parish Council | Assisi |
| 7:30 pm | AA | Seton |

Wednesday, December 12

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------|--------------|
| 11 am | AA | Seton |
| 6 pm | Dartball | Johnson Hall |
| 7 pm | STAA Christmas Concert | Church |

Thursday, December 13

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------|--------------|
| 9 am | Resurrection Choir | Church |
| 1:15 pm | Community Elders | Johnson Hall |
| 7 pm | Adult Choir | Church |
| 7 pm | Finance | Hospitality |
| 7 pm | Special Religion | Library |

Saturday, December 15

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|------|
| 9 am | Food Pantry/Thrift Shop | |
| 10 am | Post Abortion Support | POMR |

4a

Offices:

St. Veronica Parish Office (414) 482-2920
 353 E. Norwich St. 53207 Hours: M-F 8 am-4:00 pm
 Fax: (414) 482-3025

Website: www.saintveronica.org

parishoffice@saintveronica.org

Johnson Hall 414-482-2920, ext. 132

Christian Formation Office (414) 481-0777

Very Rev. Mark Payne, Pastor (262) 370-1845 (cell)
 (414)482-2920, ext. 111 markpayne@saintveronica.org

Deacon Emeritus John Dziennik

John Albinger, Technology, 482-2920, ext. 114
johnalbinger@saintveronica.org

Karen Bushman, Director of Elementary Formation,
 481-0777, ext. 117 karenbushman@saintveronica.org

Jeffrey Montoya, UAC, Youth Minister,
 481-0777, ext. 135 jeffmontoya@saintveronica.org

Kate Sponholz, Director of Music, 482-2920, ext. 128
katesponholz@saintveronica.org

Tony Goodenough, Facilities Coordinator, 482-2920, ext 115
tonygoodenough@saintveronica.org

Mike Stahler, Maintenance, 482-2920, ext. 115
mikestahler@saintveronica.org

Gerry Cofta, Parish Secretary, 482-2920, ext. 110
gerrycofta@saintveronica.org

Carla Jager, Administrative Assist, 481-0777, ext. 140
carlajager@saintveronica.org

Char Zeller, Office Assistant, 482-2920, ext 110
charzeller@saintveronica.org

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy

Principal Mary Stallmann

(414) 744-1214 341 E. Norwich St.

www.thomasaquinasacademy.com

Parish Council and Liaison Members

2007-2008

Pastor, Fr. Mark Payne

Chairperson, Paul Klajbor, 405-2674

Vice-Chairperson, Nick Karabon, 481-9165

Agenda Secretary, Christina Mascitti, 745-9013

Trustee Treasurer, Ken Widenski, 482-2417

Trustee Secretary, Patti Jeffers, 427-4069

Building & Grounds, Mike Zilinski, 482-4448

Christian Formation, Rodger Nelson, 571-0121

Parish Life & APC, Monica Phillip, 744-1697

Prayer & Worship, Lynn Larson, 489-9148

STAA Board, Judi Caruso, 744-1554

Stewardship, Robin Decker, 483-5485

Christian Formation

Adult Ministry

Rite of Christian Initiation Corner

This week the participants will break open the Scriptures and discuss how Justice and Peace are signs of the Messianic Age. Through the prophet Isaiah we hear that God's plan for the world is one where all of God's creatures, animals and people will live in complete harmony. We as followers of Christ are reminded to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus.

Any adult who has not been baptized, was baptized Roman Catholic but has not received Eucharist and Confirmation, or was baptized in another Christian denomination is encouraged to consider RCIA. The next class will begin in September of 2008 but we would like to get to know you at any time. Call or email Karen Bushman for more information.

Adult Confirmation Begins in January

Is God calling you to complete the Sacraments of Initiation by receiving Confirmation? Adults over 18 who have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation are invited to participate in the spring adult Confirmation class. The first session will be Jan. 10, 2008. Sessions are held twice per month on Thursday evenings at 7pm. This is a collaborative program among the parishes in this area. If you or someone you know would like more information please call Karen, 481-0777 or email karenbushman@saintveronica.org. We welcome your interest.



Family of the Home

This website www.familyandchurch.org offers resources for Catholic families. Monthly topics, prayer resources, and activities are featured. This month the topic is the Holy Family. It offers suggestions for how your family can celebrate the feast of the Holy Family such as having a special breakfast together, attend liturgy together, or develop a family symbol. There are also family conversation starters to help your family grow closer together.

M.A.L.E.'s (Men As Learners & Elders)

Please join us for a M.A.L.E. Advent Journey called *Preparing for Christmas* with Fr. Richard Rohr, Dec 9 and 16 in the Parish Meeting Room at 7-8:30 pm.

Our small band of men have been together since last April. We are interested in Learning about spirituality by following Jesus through the help of Fr. Richard Rohr. Our group hopes to grow into Leaders & Elders at St. Veronica. All men are welcome to our group. Please come join us and become a Learner of your Spirituality and an Elder to teach others of Male Spirituality. For more information contact, George Hanson 732-2430.

Youth Ministry

St. Thomas More High School Theater students will be presenting the Christmas themed musical Nuncrackers on December 13, 15, and 16.

If you've seen Nunsense, this show uses the same zany cast of characters. It is sure to have you laughing in the aisles. Performances are December 13 at 7pm; (there is no Friday performance); December 15 at 8 pm., and December 16 at 2pm. Ticket prices are \$7 and will be available at the door.

Catholic Kids Corner

Fun Facts for Faithful Kids

December 12 is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This is a special feast to honor Mary. On this day in 1531, Mary appeared to an Indian peasant, Juan Diego and gave him words of encouragement. She is the patron saint of Mexico.

December 12, 1917 was also the day that Father Edward Flanagan opened his Home for Boys in Omaha, Nebraska. Father Flanagan used to say "There are no bad boys. There is only bad environment, bad training, bad example, or bad thinking." He believed that everyone has good inside, even if they make mistakes. Boys Town still helps both boys and girls today.



The LEGEND of the Candy Cane

A Candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would help us remember who Christmas is really

about. So he made a Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus. Hard candy to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus. It also represented the staff of the "Good Shepherd".

The candymaker then included red stripes. He used three small stripes and a large red stripe to represent the suffering Christ endured at the end of his life.

The candy became known as a Candy Cane - a decoration seen at Christmas time. The meaning has faded, but still gives joy to children young and old, whom Jesus loves and treasures.



John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. - Mt 3:4-6