

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2007

St. Veronica

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

353 E. NORWICH ST. • MILWAUKEE, WI 53207 414-482-2920

**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 very pleased that you have chosen to worship with us in our faith community.

We welcome you to become a member of our parish family. Please call the parish office or visit our website www.saintveronica.org if you are interested in membership.

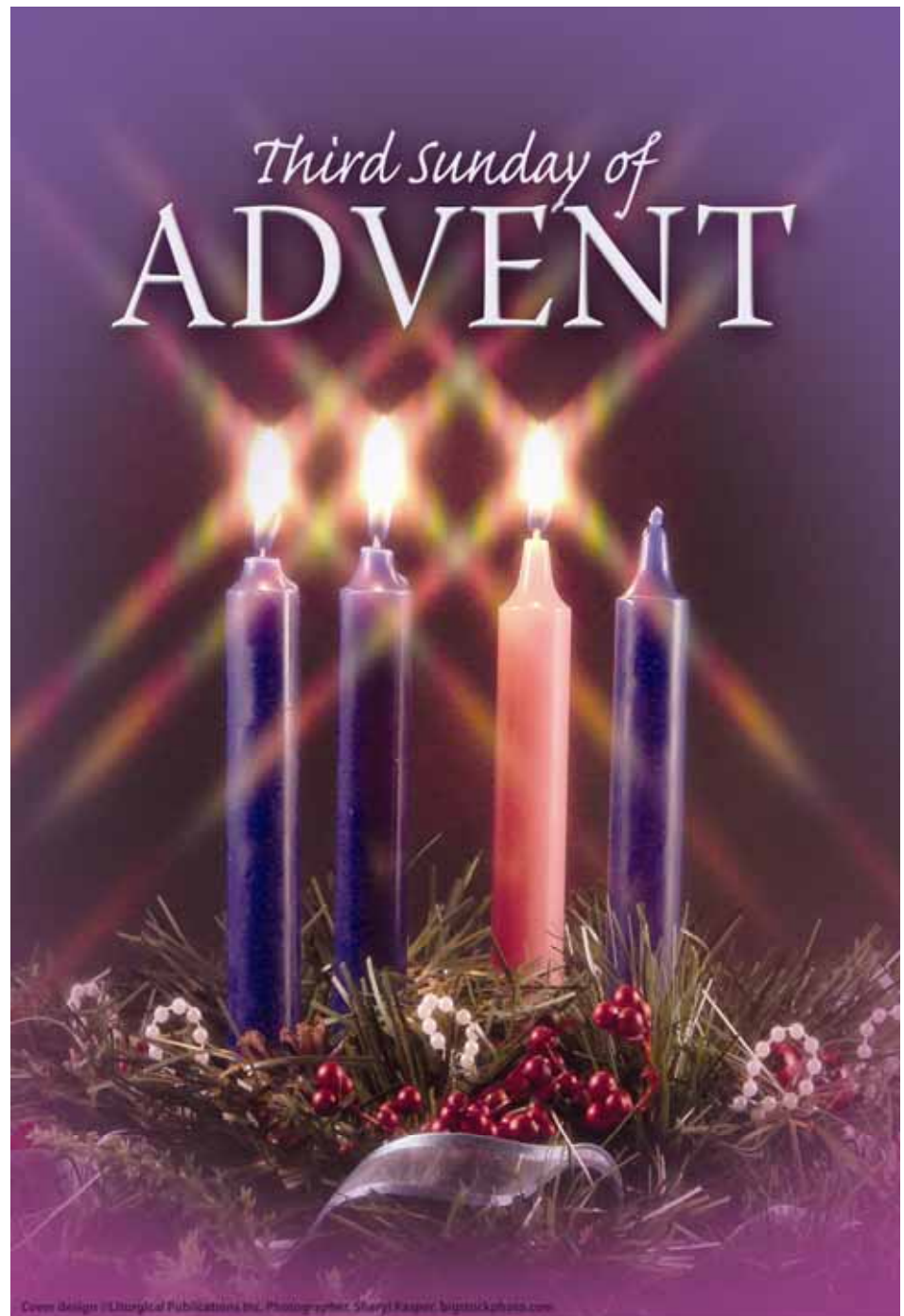
Sacraments

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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A Message From Fr. Mark:

We have reached the halfway weekend of Advent. Our Gospel message points to Jesus who brings wholeness to life. After George Bailey had been given the opportunity to see what the world would have been like without his presence, he “awoke” to a new reality. There was a renewed sense of hope and vitality in his voice and being. His eyes were open to those around him. He felt a renewed commitment to the people he loved: his wife, his children and his fellow townspeople. He no longer cared whether he would go to jail. The world looked different to George because he found that his life had meaning.

While John the Baptist was in prison he had heard about Jesus and the miraculous works He was performing. John had an image of a Messiah with a winnowing fan who would pass judgment on those who did not repent.

John wondered if it were possible that Jesus was the Messiah. John’s disciples approached Jesus and asked him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” The response of Jesus points to a renewed sense of life for all who live in darkness - people like George. George had experienced a sense of darkness and sadness in his life before he met Clarence the angel (the presence of God). Clarence helped George to see life in a renewed way. It was a struggle but George managed to discover that all things are made new through God’s presence. As we journey through Advent, let our hearts experience the same renewing presence of God. We are a people who walk in darkness searching for the light. We need our weak bodies to be strengthened and our knees to be made firm. To those whose hearts are frightened; be strong, fear not! Our Lord comes to save you.

The article concerning the repairs needed for the church organ has spurred parishioners to answer the call to fund the repair work. We are grateful to those who have pledged a sizable contribution towards the organ. Thank you for your generosity. However, the publication of the article, the Finance and Buildings and Grounds Committees met to look at the overall plan for the parking turnaround, the school roof and the organ. Committee members realized that each project is important and needs attention. All of the possibilities were weighed so that a plan would reflect the proper importance. It was decided that the turnaround would come first because an individual from the community has pledged to donate half of its cost. That means we as a parish need to raise the other half. Due to rising costs of construction materials this project could not be set aside for a later date. The turnaround will be completed in spring 2008. The school roof also cannot be set aside any longer. It is a necessity that requires immediate attention. We will use School Choice funds to cover the majority of the cost. The parish will still need to cover the remaining expenses. This brings us to the organ. The organ is necessary for Mass, but we have the piano which can be used until the repairs are made. So we need to focus our attention towards the turnaround at this time and complete the goal.

This parish is very generous and seeks to build a community that will have a future. To be anxious or fearful does not help us. Look at George Bailey. We need to renew our commitment towards our plan: the turnaround, then the roof and finally the organ. Please join me in making the turnaround a reality. Thank you.

Blessings, Fr. Mark



St. Veronica and the five cluster parishes will offer their Advent Communal Penance service on Wednesday, December 19 at 7 pm.



Living Our Faith

Lord Jesus Christ, you are Son of the living God. Through our baptism, we are empowered with your disciples to share in your ministry and your love with all the world.

In faith and through the Church, we have met you. Without seeing you, we know and love you.

Send the grace of your Holy Spirit to all of the Church in southeastern Wisconsin, that with your blessing, we may share your mission in our time, so that others will meet, know and love you, and with us, live our faith joyfully.

We ask Mary, your mother and ours, along with St. John the Evangelist our patron, to pray for us. We ask all this through you, Christ our Lord. Amen

Published with ecclesiastical approval
Timothy M. Dolan, September 1, 2007



Christmas at Saint Veronica's
 Saturday, December 22 Mass at 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday, December 23 Masses at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
 Monday, December 24 Mass at 4:30 p.m. with a special children's Christmas presentation
 Tuesday, December 25 Mass at Midnight
 Choral prelude begins at 11:45 p.m.
 Tuesday, December 25 Mass at 10:30 a.m.
 Choral prelude begins at 10:15 a.m.

Human Concerns



Suggested Prayer

That the birth of the Christ Child to a poor family in humble surroundings may bear witness to the value of every human being, regardless of outer appearances, we pray.

Reflection

Fr. Richard Neuhaus, commenting on the Supreme Court's decision upholding a ban on partial-birth abortion wrote, "It is not, I believe a false hope that this decision has brought us a little closer to the goal...of a society in which every child is welcomed in life and protected in law." *NRL News*, 5/07.

DID YOU KNOW.....



"Embryonic stem cell research relies on the destruction of a living member of the human family, an embryo, to obtain the stem cells. Science should not

rely on the destruction of human life to obtain advances."

Look for posters in church with information about David Prentice's presentation in January. He will be in Milwaukee on January 13, 2008. He is presenting at *Immaculate Conception Church*, in Ryan Hall, at 10:45 am, following the 9:30 Mass. Come learn about this issue of stem cell/cloning and why the controversy about it. Bring a friend and enjoy light refreshments at the presentation.

Thank You

A very warm and heartfelt "thank you" to all who donated items from the "Giving Tree". There will be many happy families, Children, residents in assisted living and shelters who will enjoy your thoughtfulness. *Cathy Souhrada, Human Concerns Char*



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.

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://apostleshipofprayer.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 |
| 12pm-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

Alanon Meeting

Is someone in your family dealing with the disease of alcoholism? Would you like to talk with someone about how this is affecting you?

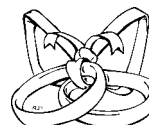
Alanon Family Groups are fellowship gatherings of relatives and friends of alcoholics. These gatherings are confidential and provide an opportunity for those gathered to share their experiences, offer support to each other, as well as, encouragement and hope. One such group has started meeting at Nativity of the Lord Parish.

Alanon Meeting, Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Nativity of the Lord Christian Formation Center, 3658 E. Plankinton Ave, Cudahy

For more information, please contact the Alanon office, 257-2415 or one of the following members *Suzanne B. 570-9906/Mary B. 570-9407.*

Open Door Free Health Clinic

The Open Door Free Clinic, for the uninsured and underinsured, will be open Wed, Dec 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.



Wedding Banns

II Daniel Simmons and Jennifer Brown



December 2007

Dear Parishioners and Alumni,

We want to offer you our deepest thanks for supporting our school, St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, and we hope that you will continue to help support and care about our school and Catholic education.

The reason we so desperately need your involvement in our newly founded school is to help us make the education of our students today just as meaningful and memorable as was your experience in school. We are hoping that in your experience, you will help us keep Catholic education alive and you would gratefully assist us in supporting our new school system.

It's been a little bit of a struggle thus far, little by little, we are getting there and hope to have a thriving Catholic school system on the southeast side of Milwaukee. We believe most alumni students who have either gone to a Catholic school or who have sent their children too one, know the value of a faith-based education and how important this is in the world today.

At this time, with the Holiday Season here, we are hoping you would help us even with a small contribution. We can use all the help we can get and are not afraid even to beg for your assistance. Our parents are already helping us with fundraising events and taking the burden of tuition as best they can.

If your place of business offers matching gifts, that would be more of a help. If your place of employment is open to offering out-right grant, please send us the information and we will follow up by contacting them personally. Our Development Committee is actively searching for grants we can apply for in order to ease the financial strain or help add to the curriculum of our new school.

Please let us know if there is any way you would be willing to help us. We believe our parishes can be a great resources in sharing the lives of our students.

Thank you so much for your help and may our Lord bless you deep within and may your Holiday Season be blessed in many ways.

Gratefully in Christ,

The St. Thomas Aquinas Academy Development Committee
Sue Dolkiewicz, 481-8679 Judy Caruso, 744-1554,
Carmen Tuckwood, 571-5369 Dan Slapczynski, 837-4328

Lectionary Link

This week we are celebrating the Third Sunday of Advent traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word meaning "rejoice". The rose or pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit this week. In the Readings we are confronted with the question, "Are You the Messiah, or are we to look for another?" John the Baptist expected a Messiah who would mete out holy justice with a winnowing fan. Others expected a political leader who would remove the boot of Rome from the necks of Israel. Instead, Jesus came to reconcile sinners, bring sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf and to demand justice for the poor. Jesus is present to us in many ways if we have the eyes of faith to see.

Adult: If Jesus were talking about you and your life, what could he say to show you are his follower?

Child: What are the things you do every day to show you are a follower of Jesus?

Readings for the Week of December 16

- Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
- Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
- Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
- Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
- Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
- Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
- Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
- Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



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**Parish Financial Stewardship
for the Week Ending 12/02/07**

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Offertory | \$ 327.70 |
| Stewardship | 16,564.07 |
| Feed & Shelter the Poor | 831.00 |
| Fr. Mark's Wish List | <u>1,035.08</u> |
| Total | \$ 18,757.85 |



**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 Office Hours During
Holiday Season**

Please note the change in hours for the upcoming Holidays.

Parish offices will be closed all day
Monday, December 24,
Tuesday, December 25 and
Monday, December 31

All year end donations must be
received by December 31 in order
to receive credit for 2007.

"This is the one about whom it is written: 'Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.' Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." - Mt 11:10-11

~Mass Intentions~

Sunday, December 16 Third Sunday of Advent

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

Monday, December 17

8:15 am Communion Service

Tuesday, December 18

No Morning Mass

6:30 pm † Cornelia Wisniewski (D. Wisniewski)

Wednesday, December 19

8:15 am † Chet Wszalek (Family)
 † Raymond Lemmer (J. Lemmer)
 7 pm Advent Communal Penance Service

Thursday, December 20

8:15 am † John Czuta (Family)
 † Joe, Sr. & Joe Jr. Kotlowski (Family)

Friday, December 21

8:15 am † Filippo & Doropea Tarantino (Family)
 † Mary Beth Haight (Family)

Saturday, December 22

4:30 pm † Ed Ostrenga (Jankowski Family)
 † Josephine Wojciechowski (Family/Friends)
 † Doris Suhm (Family)
 † Steven Rybacki (Family)

Sunday, December 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am 47th Wedding Anniversary of
 Lloyd and Carol Barnes
 † Elizabeth Huberty (Family)
 † Alyce Budnik (Family)
 † Rupert Jonas (Family)
 10:30 am For Our Parishioners

Parish Meetings and Events

Sunday, December 16

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| 8:30 am | RCIA | Assisi |
| 9 am | SRE | School |
| 11:15 am | St. Veronica/St. Paul YM | St. Paul |
| 7 pm | M.A.L.E.S | POMR |
| 7 pm | Woman's Bible Study | Assisi |

Tuesday, December 18

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|-------|
| 5:15 pm | Adult Bible Study | POMR |
| 7:30 am | AA | Seton |

Wednesday, December 19

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 11 am | AA | Seton |
| 1:30 pm | Market Day | Assisi |
| 7 pm | Advent Communal Penance Church | |
| 7 pm | Christian Formation | Rel. Ed. Cnt. |

Thursday, December 20

| | | |
|------|-------------|--------|
| 7 pm | Adult Choir | Church |
|------|-------------|--------|

Sunday, December 23

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|--------|
| 8:30 am | RCIA | Assisi |
| 7 pm | Woman's Bible Study | Assisi |

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@saintveroncia.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, Office Coordinator, 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

A Soldier's Silent Night

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
And just to see who in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the mantel, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures, of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary.
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,

I dropped to me knees and started to cry;
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
And we both shivered from the cold night's chill.
I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night

*Written by Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt in 1986.
Originally published in "Leatherneck Magazine" under the title
"Merry Christmas, My Friend," in 1991.*

If you would like to send a free card to a soldier in thanks
for her/his service, go to www.letsaythanks.com. Xerox Corp.
prints the card you select and it is included in care packages
distributed by the military support organization Give2TheTroops.

children's



Catholic Kids Corner

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children ages 4 – 10 are invited to follow the prayer leaders and celebrate the Liturgy of the Word together. The children will hear the Scriptures in age appropriate language and a short reflection on the Readings. The prayer leaders this week are Virginia Novak and Penny Krafczyk.

The Spring sign up for volunteers will occur in early January. Would you be willing to share your time with the children of the parish? Volunteers can either read the Scripture stories or give a short reflection. Lesson plans are provided and you can choose the Sunday that you are available. Call 481-0777 or email karenbushman@saintveronica.org if you would like more information.

Collaborative Elementary Religious Ed.

December 16 is the final session for the fall semester. Classes will resume on January 6. We would like to acknowledge the wonderful men and women who give their time to teaching the children about Jesus and the church. They are catechists, aides and substitute catechists. Our volunteers come from both St. Paul and St. Veronica parishes. *Jennie Dziennik, Tricia and Samantha Pietrzak, Jessica Hansen, Amy Domagalski, Christopher Cannestra, Kathy, Alyssa and Brianna Jicha, Teresa Bittner, Karen and Leah Shapiro, Christine Biller, Cynthia Boerner – Kuhr, Victor and Christopher Burgos, Stephanie Krol, Phil Fritsch, Suzette and Alex Piekarski, Barb and CJ Michalek, Steve Krol, Sharon Lyda, Robert Weber, Gregory Dickenson, Sue Pattersons, Rhonda LaPointe, Sarah and Patrick Berg, April and Justin Buschmann, Mary Lou Juarez, Jackie Jansen, and Virginia Novak.*

Rite of Christian Initiation Corner

This week the participants will break open the Scriptures and discuss how we can recognize Christ in our own lives and in our world. We also looked at the Charism of Prophecy. Every baptized Christian has been anointed as priest, prophet, and king. By watching other Christians, the catechumen and candidates recognize how to live their lives. Our living a Christian life is the first witness to the power of the Good News of Jesus to the world. As Catholics, we must recognize that we can spread the message of Jesus by our example. Please continue to pray for the participants, sponsors, and team members during this holy season.

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.