The angel said to them: “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—tidings of great joy to be shared by the whole people. This day in David’s city a savior has been born to you, the Messiah and Lord. Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes.” Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven, peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:8-21

This hand-carved wooden crèche is from SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. See Page 11 for The Criterion’s annual Christmas Supplement.
St. John, Bloomington, to dedicate new church facility

By Susan Bierman

BLOOMINGTON—St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington will march toward the new millennium prepared as it dedicates its new parish facility at a Mass at 10 a.m. Dec. 20. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will preside. A brunch for the parish will follow.

“We are going to celebrate big-time,” said Mark Ryan, parishioner and chair of the building committee. The 530-household Bloomington Deanery parish has much to celebrate. Approximately three years ago, planning began for the new parish facility. Forty acres of land located on the west side of Monroe County was purchased in December 1996. Ground was broken in August 1997. St. John parishioners and staff moved into the new location at the 4607 W. State Road 46 in Bloomington about two months ago.

The 36,000 square-foot parish building, costing approximately $4.2 million, houses a fellowship wing, a sanctuary/narthex wing and a pastoral wing. The facility was designed by Mitchell, Tinperman, and Ritz architects of New Albany and built by Wehr Constructors, Inc. of Louisville, Ky.

The fellowship wing houses religious education classrooms, a gym/fellowship hall, a kitchen, storage spaces, a library, and several offices.

The new sanctuary’s capacity is more than 700. Connecting to the fellowship and sanctuary/narthex wings are the pastoral wing, which houses offices, a reception area and the rectory.

The former St. John the Apostle Parish facility consisted of a church and religious education facility under one roof, and a rectory. It was located on 14 acres at 3410 W. Third St., in Bloomington.

The property and facility were sold. The pews and altar were taken out of the church and given to St. Jude Parish in Spencer and All Saints School in Indianapolis. Seventeen stained-glassed windows were transferred to the new parish facility.

“I think that really helped parishioners coming into the new church. They felt that there was some of the old church here,” said Ryan.

Approximately 200 parishioners will march toward the new millennium prepared as it dedicates its new parish facility.

In the story announcing Father William Marks’s assign- ment to the Bright area (The Criterion, Dec. 11), members of a task force were incorrectly listed. Individuals listed were members of the original Northeastern Dearborn County Task Force that recommended to Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein the assignment of a full-time priest to the fellowship and sanctuary/narthex wings are the pastoral wing, and the investigation of the possibility of a high school.

That task force’s work has been completed.

A new task force has been formed to study the feasibility of the establishment of a Catholic high school in the area. Members of this group, known as the Batesville Deanery Blue Ribbon Task Force on Catholic Education, are: Bill Comer, St. Mary, Aurora; Franciscan Father William Farris, pastor of St. Louis, Batesville and dean of the Batesville Deanery; Bruce Rippe, St. Louis, Batesville; Candace Hartmeyer, St. Mary-of-the-Rock; Msgr. Louis E. Schumacher, administrator of St. Michael, Brookville, and Holy Guardian Angels, Cedar Grove; Leroy Alig, St. John the Baptist, Dover, and St. Joseph, St. Leon; Tim Deitz, St. Peter, Franklin County; Peg Polanski, St. Mary, Greensburg; Michael Witte, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg; Rita Graboth, principal of St. Lawrence School, Lawrenceburg; Dave Record, St. Anthony of Padua, Morris; Marty Kolstei, principal of Oldenburg Academy; Jerry Kreischmann, member of Oldenburg Academy board, Marvin Nobbe, Holy Family, Oldenburg; Franciscan Sister Amy Kistner, congregational minister of the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg; Mary Ann Hartman, St. Nicholas, Sumam; Beverly Miller, St. John, Osgood, and St. Magdalene, New Marion; Jeanie Fry, Immaculate Conception, Milhouse; Eva Roll, Bright; Suzanne Loch, St. Paul, New Alsace; Sandy Volk, St. Anne, Hanbury, and a still-to-be-named representative from St. Joseph, Shelbyville. Joseph Peters, archdiocesan associate executive director of Catholic Education, serves as staff to the task force. 

St. John the Apostle Church in Bloomington will be dedicated Dec. 20.

Ryan said: “St. John the Apostle Parish was relocated and a new facility was built because of changing demographics, with the present location surrounded by retail and commercial businesses. The parish community also had begun to outgrow the facilities.

“Physically, our church and religious education center was less than a third of the square footage that we have now,” said Ryan.

This week’s Criterion is the last of 1998

This week’s edition of The Criterion, which includes the annual Christmas Supplement, will be the last edition of 1998. The Criterion will run on Jan. 8, 1999, and resume its regular publishing schedule. The Archibishop O’Meara Catholic Center will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 3, 1999. The Catholic Center will reopen for the new year on Jan. 4, 1999.†

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Expectant family finds hospitality, possibilities at Holy Family Shelter

By Margaret Nelson

The journey of a family that traveled from Texas to Indianapolis about this time last year is reminiscent of the Christmas story.

The family—a woman eight months pregnant, her husband and 6-year-old daughter—needed a home in Indianapolis. The Holy Family Shelter was there for us," said Francisco, who asked that only his first name be used for this story.

The couple came to Indiana because they heard better jobs were available. "We used to have a car," he said. "They took the car away because the license had expired. We stayed with people on the east side, but they said they could not afford to let us stay there.

The situation was frightening, especially for his pregnant wife. The couple hesitated to ask for help, but finally decided they had to try to find a shelter. They found the Holy Family Shelter in the telephone book.

"The man they talked with said that the shelter would find a place for them there. The family was to find much more than shelter. Meals, clothing, a school for their child, job counseling—and medical help—were provided for them.

"When we came, the people received us and told us the rules," said Francisco. "All the people over there were like a big family in the way they care about each other. We saw it as an extension of God’s love.

"The main thing I was worried about, my wife was [he extended his arms out from his stomach] eight months pregnant. She was starting to feel low. She needed a place to stay with food and clean sheets," he said.

"They had everything there. But I was worried about my wife when she was ready to go to the hospital," he said. "We came to a place where they care about people. They don’t know us. But they open the doors for everybody," said Francisco.

The baby, Javier, was born three days after Christmas. Unfortunately, Linda had medical complications and had to have surgery. "I started to get sick when they told me, maybe she was not going to make it," said Francisco. "I was thinking, ‘What am I going to do?’" His wife’s family was in Texas.

After surgery—at age 22—Linda learned that she could not have any more children. "It was hard to deal with that," said Francisco. "The stuff from Holy Family Shelter talked with us. They were there when we needed them."

Linda said that this counseling enabled her husband to be with her when she needed him. "They never told us. You have got to leave. You don’t have a job." It was the other way around. They told us to hold on for a little while," Francisco said.

"They offered me a maintenance job with the shelter," he said. But Francisco ended up in emergency care at Wishard Memorial Hospital with high blood pressure. After taking the necessary medication, he was able to work in the place that had helped them.

"Not everyone can work there. The shelter has all kinds of people with all kinds of needs," said Francisco. "Some have been abused mentally or physically. They ran away—some from other states. Some of the women and children don’t trust men."

He tries to help the residents of Holy Family Shelter understand the need to follow the rules. And he shows them how helping brings possibilities, rather than limitations.

"I just feel like I want to be part of this," said Francisco. "I am starting to know people more and more. I am able to let people coming in know they don’t have anything to be scared of."

"The Holy Family Shelter put confidence in me," he said. "For them to give me the keys is something. I don’t know what they saw in me." Francisco said. He explained that he does not have bad habits and has not been in trouble with the law.

The children at the shelter like to help him straighten out the room where clothing donations are kept.

Francisco, Linda and the children now live at Holy Family’s supportive housing, which provides apartments at the former St. Patrick School. Residents pay some rent and can live there up to two years while they get permanently settled.

The couple now has a van, which they are paying on, for transportation. They attend parenting classes offered by the shelter. Of the original shelter on Palmer Street, Francisco said, "I still feel like that’s my house. People there think there’s nobody to care about them. They need to have the right person fill that job. They have to really, really care about people."

"They have room available right away—24 hours a day," said Francisco. "When you come inside that door, you’re safe."

"We are very thankful for the Holy Family Shelter for helping us," said Linda. "They opened the doors for us when we needed their help."

(The Holy Family Shelter is an agency of Catholic Social Services of Central Indiana, a member agency of Catholic Charities. For more information about Holy Family Shelter, call 317-635-7830.)

IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and the Beatification of Mother Theodore

The video documentary of the 1998 archdiocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome will be available soon. Journey with Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and pilgrims from central and southern Indiana to many important holy shrines and sites.

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Two scions of American liberalism, The New York Times and the National Council of Churches, have reacted negatively to the recent Supreme Court decision not to review a Milwaukee case involving school voucher programs. On Nov. 12, the Times editorialized that “the Court’s silence leaves in place a plan that will directly harm the vast majority of the city’s school children, namely those left in Milwaukee’s public schools while others flee to the voucher program.” A day earlier, the general assembly of the National Council of Churches began discussion of a new policy that supports public schools and opposes vouchers—arguing that conservative Christian groups have combined the school voucher debate and created the impression that most religious groups support vouchers. Why does The New York Times consider those who support vouchers to be people “who do not support or have given up on the ideals of public education”? Why would the National Council of Churches be myopic? We believe that it is perfectly possible to support enthusiastically “the ideals of public education” and still favor voucher programs. We also believe that our Christian responsibility to reach out to the poor argues for excellence, and accessible, public, parochial and private schools for all families regardless of their racial, ethnic or religious backgrounds.

We call on all ideologues—whether conservative, liberal or otherwise—to let go of their petty prejudices and to consider the advantages of public support for school choice. — Daniel Conway

(Daniel Conway is a member of the editorial committee of the Board of Directors of Criterion Press, Inc.)

Vouchers and the need for excellent public, parochial and private schools

Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie. So we sing with joyful hearts at Midnight Mass and during our Christmas liturgical celebrations.

Since our visit to Bethlehem on our archdiocesan pilgrimage earlier in the fall, these words will never seem the same to me. From the outset I must confess that, for me, bustling and dusty Bethlehem teeming with merchants of tourism seemed anything but still these days. I am sure the same was true for my fellow pilgrims. Furthermore, the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem—either on foot or on donkey—had to have been an arduous uphill climb. It was even tiring for us traveling by bus! During the pilgrimage, one of the women injected a note of levity by asking if I knew why there was no room in the inn for Mary and Joseph: Of course I responded, “No, why?” She said because they arrived too late, and they arrived too late because Joseph, the typical male, refused to stop and ask for directions! All levity aside, I can’t imagine the trial the journey to Bethlehem presented for an expectant mother, Mary, and an anxious foster father and protector, Joseph.

For understandable and valid reasons in order to come to grips with the awesome mystery of the divine incarnation, our presentations of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem tend to be romanticized and cast in wooden stables. Today, even expensive Waterford crystal nativity sets illustrate the Christmas event in Bethlehem. What I used to suspect must be true—namely, that the romantic representations of the birth of Jesus could hardly have been so. Now I know.

Today, in the land of Israel, and probably even more so 2,000 years ago, very little could have been available for construction of houses, guest inns and even barnyard stables. Today, as in the past, in the Holy Land are a pretty rare commodity. We pilgrims found the peaceful realize 

TheCriterion Friday, December 18, 1998

Seeking the Face of the Lord

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

Miracle of Christmas: Finding God in the ordinary

Along the way to Bethlehem, No, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in Bethlehem was not a romantic occurrence. But for all of its ordinariness, it is even more wondrous! What we revere as the remarkable mystery of the incarnation of God among us must have been a terrifying and faith-testing experience for Mary and Joseph. We recall that our Lord and Joseph were ordinary people of their day, ordinary people like we are ordinary people. The wonder is that God chose to make his home among ordinary people like us in rather ordinary places on this earth.

With the archdiocesan pilgrimage of hope, we pilgrims had the privilege of celebrating Mass in what is now called Shepherds’ Field, just outside of the legendary birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem. We also had the privilege of touching and kissing the stone-marked star where the birthplace of Jesus is said to have been. I and my pilgrim sisters and brothers will never forget this experience. We had the marvelous gift of the Eucharist to help us focus on the momentous divine mystery that took place in the most unlikely place called Bethlehem, the City of Peace. By now you see that one of the greatest blessings I experienced in Bethlehem was the peaceful realization that the birth of Christ was very real and ordinary in all its profundity. We pilgrims found the peace that can only come from God in the midst of today’s hustle and bustle and the merchants of tourism. I couldn’t help but wonder what it is like for tourists visiting the usual places in Israel who are not people of faith. It must be a strange experience. That thought carried me to the further realization that living without faith in the ordinari ness and the hectic pace of our day in any place in the world must be a strange and empty experience. Belief in the found miracle of God entering into our busy and ordinary world makes all the difference.

And so my 1998 Christmas prayer and wish for all of you is this: May you find the peace that only Christ can give in the Bethlehem of your own hearts. May you find Christ’s peace in the Bethlehem of your own heart. May you remember the peace that only Christ can give into the hustle and bustle of the Bethlehem of your workplace. Have a blessed Christmas filled with peace!
O
del pueblo pequeño de Belén, cómo innombrable la gente que acudía; todas las palabras traducidas de la canción navideña en inglés) Por eso cantamos esta canción con corazones jubilosos en la Misa del Gallo y durante nuestras celebraciones litúrgicas navideñas. Después de nuestra visita a Belén durante nuestra peregrinación de la arcidiócesis en otoño, estas palabras nunca parecieron menos ciertas. Debo confesar que desde el principio, la ciudad bulliciosa y polvorienta de Belén con comerciantes de turismo parecía demasiado tranquila estos días. Me imagino que mis compañeros peregrinos tuvieron la misma impresión. Además, la jornada de María y José de Nazaret a Belén—ninguna parte de este viaje fue un viaje por burro—debió haber sido una jornada ardua y difícil. ¿Fue cansado al alba en autobús? Durante la peregrinación, una de las mujeres dijo algo en broma en la que se burlaba de la posada, con estrella donde se dice fue el lugar de nacimiento de Jesús. Mis hermanas y hermanos los peregrinos y yo se olvidaban de esta experiencia. Tuvimos el regalo maravilloso de la Eucaristía en la ciudad de Belén. Ahora ustedes miran la cara del Señor en el Belén de sus propios corazones!... (continúa)
Ken Miller, parish pastoral council chair.

Before building the new parish facility a "wants and needs" list was created. "We had needs and we had wants, and we not only were able to meet our needs, but I think we also met all our wants," Ryan said. Ryan added that a lot of input from various parish committees contributed to the list and helped in planning the new facility. "We were very fortunate. I think we were able to deliver what people had hoped for," said Father Daniel B. Donohoo, who has served as pastor since 1996. A religious education center was both a need and a want. At the old facility, Ryan said there really wasn’t a good space for religious education. Miller said the area was very congested and not soundproof. "It just didn’t work. It was a very typical early-1970s design," Miller said. Currently, 230 children are enrolled in the growing religious education program at St. John Parish.

Father Donohoo said there are a few things that remain unfinished with the project. These include a life-size crucifix that will sit on top of the hill. It was carved by a parishioner from a 10-ton piece of stone. An outdoor Marian garden with a statue of Our Lady of Grace will be another finishing touch.

The Bell Tower, which is already in place, is something the parish’s Legacy of Hope campaign will fund. The parish has surpassed its goal of $236,500.†

Ensure Jesus’ extended mission—to teach, to shepherd, and to sanctify the people of God—by remembering the Church and her missions in your will.

I bequeath to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, the sum of $ for its work with the poor in our country and throughout the world.

Your love of Jesus and His children will live on.
Youth serve the poor during holiday season

By Mary Ann Wyand

Catholic high school students in the archdiocese have kept busy helping others this month. Many of these holiday service projects, programs and activities are long-time school traditions.

About 25 years ago, performing arts and music students at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville started entertaining children, adults and senior citizens in the Kentuckiana area with seasonal skits and songs as a community service.

Dale Durham, performing arts chair at the New Albany Deanery interparochial junior/senior high school, said 50 students participating in the Providence Singers and the Christmas Capers, Popcorn Players and Acting Up theater groups donated their time and talents during Advent for 60 performances at grade schools, aftercare programs, nursing homes and holiday events in southern Indiana and northern Kentucky. "Our extracurricular theater groups start performing right after Thanksgiving and continue until our Christmas break," Durham said. "Most of our material is Christmas-related, both contemporary stories and traditional folk tales, primarily for children. Our Providence Singers present Christmas concerts at area nursing homes. The students also perform at a lot of Christmas parties sponsored by community organizations."

Durham said canned food drives, clothing drives and an annual giving tree project are other ways Providence students help people in need during the holidays.

This year, Roncalli High School students in the Indianapolis South Deanery continued their ambitious holiday tradition of canvassing southside neighborhoods for the Rebels' annual canned food drive. Roncalli students collected 55,151 cans of food between Nov. 4-23, according to Principal Charles Weisenbach. Donations were distributed to St. Vincent de Paul food pantries. St. Augustine Home for the Aged, Gleaner's Food Bank, the archdiocesan Catholic Social Services Crisis Center, the Franklin Township Civic League and Hunger, Inc.

"We delivered canned goods to a couple of different social service agencies in the Indianapolis area," Weisenbach said. "We also collected money to help victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and Nicaragua, and we gave money to the archdiocese's Catholic Social Services and Holy Family Shelter and to the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Damien Center, Lighthouse Ministries and other community service agencies."

For the third year, Weisenbach said, Roncalli students in Rebecca Pavlik-Guirin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. The archdiocesan Journey of Hope 2001 celebration has included annual pilgrimages led by the archbishop or by Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general of the archdiocese. Channel 4 is available throughout most of Indiana by broadcast signal and on many cable systems. Coverage areas include nearly every area of the 39-county archdiocese. Readers with questions about programming on their local cable system should call their cable provider. Ordering information is available about programming on their local cable system should call their cable provider. Ordering information is available from the Catholic Communications Center by calling 317-236-1570, or 800-382-9836, ext. 1570. The video costs $30 and is also available by ordering with the coupon located on this page and also on Page 3 of this issue of The Criterion. Visa and MasterCard orders are accepted.

Heger’s human relations class helped Santa Claus by replying to letters sent to the North Pole by kindergarten and first-grade students enrolled in Catholic grade schools in the Indianapolis South Deanery. Student "elves," working on Santa’s behalf, completed their letter-writing project Dec. 4, but not without a few challenging moments.

Senior Jennifer Mehalik, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, said another child asked for a pet dinosaur—a real dinosaur—for Christmas!

With impossible requests, Sara said, "I say, 'I’ll be sure to give Santa your list."

Weisenbach said Roncalli foreign language students spent time during Advent on a variety of projects promoting peace, unity and respect for others.

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St. Christopher’s legacy: Building from within for the future

St. Christopher Parish in Speedway has 2,300 families—and a staff of 16 who minister to the faithful. The staff met in the parish office recently to discuss the focus of the parish for the Journey of Hope 2001.

“We’re planning a church,” said Father Michael Welch, pastor. At its meeting last week, the archdiocesan art and architecture committee considered the church plan the parish design committee created.

“Building from Within”—to build the community first—is the aim of parish planners.

The design committee defined the characteristics of the St. Christopher Parish community as a hospitable, praying community where all give, all receive, all celebrate. They understood “the real symbol of Eucharist is the parish assembly, fully aware of ourselves as God’s people.”

“The focus is on the spiritual part of all of our programs,” said Providence Sister Marie Wolf, minister to the sick.

The Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation capital and endowment campaign for this community—located on the west side of Indianapolis—includes: How to call people to their baptismal promises, and how to call them tominster and to be ministered to no matter what.

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for the community what it means to be a community.”

“I think we’ve been overwhelmed by the support of the parish,” said Leek.

Providence Sister Marie Wolf said, “We had a wonderful liturgy under the tent.” Twelve hundred parishioners gathered at the end of June for a single weekend liturgy, using the entire parking lot.

“I told them that this is only one-third of the parish,” said Father Welch.

Steve Quinnette, director of maintenance, said, “Before I was an employee, I loved this church as my church. I found more community than I ever knew before; the people have love for everyone.”

The parents really do care for the school and the parish staff,” he said. “It’s nice to see everyone hang in there when we need it—and when we don’t.”

Parishioners are quite aware that they are building the new church as a legacy for the kids now in the school, who will be ready for it in the new millennium.

That includes the youth. Sixth-grade students at St. Christopher School planned the yearbook cover with the theme, “Legacy of Hope, We’re Building Our Future.” Their ideas, visualized by their art teacher, show a drawing of the school mascot, a cardinal, in construction clothes putting money in a bank shaped like the school. A sign reads, “Legacy Bank.” “It pays when the kids are not left out of the vision,” said Leek.

A few weeks ago, when the Indianapolis Motor Speedway announced it would sponsor a new Formula One race in the year 2000, parish leaders knew that meant a third weekend of gridlocked traffic and rescheduled Masses. St. Christopher has always made adjustments for the Indianapolis 500 and, more recently, the Brickyard 400.

“It will be great,” said Mary Ann O’Neal, youth ministry coordinator. “It will put us on the international map.”

In 1987, St. Christopher became one of the first parishes to use a van to pick up parishioners for Sunday Mass.

The 55 and Over group meets monthly and is treated to lunch at the school. “They feel comfortable,” she said. “Sometimes they say they have ‘shopped around’ at different churches first.”

O’Neal said, “There are no age barriers. The [teen-age] kids are actively involved in the parish. Retirees are serving lunch at the school.” She said that the youth—from seventh-graders through high school seniors—sort packages that people bring for the Christmas Giving Tree.

Brennan said, “They are interconnected—the school children and the CCD kids. They’re our parish children.”

“It’s a healthy program,” O’Neal said of the 21 CYO athletic programs involving children from third grade through high school. The space the Legacy of Hope campaign will bring will save rent money for gym rentals. St. Christopher’s interior design team tried to “do a whole plan for the campus—not just for now—but for 10 years from now,” said Father Welch.

“The possibility of new space can be a gift and a curse,” he said. He explained that it has helped the parish in that, when it did not have space, they had to do outreach.

“But we can’t bring all the people together now,” said Father Welch.

St. Christopher (1937)

Address: 5301 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, IN 46224-6497
Phone: 317-241-6314
Church Capacity: 500
Number of Households: 2,422
Pastor: Rev. D. Michael Welch
In Residence: Rev. Robert J. Gilday
Pastoral Associate: Sr. Sue Bradshaw, OSF, Bill Strolek-Van Valkenburg, Nancy L. Meyer
Director of Religious Education: Therese Brennan
Minister to the Sick: Sr. Marie Wolf, SP
Family Pastoral Counselor: Robert Basile
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Mary Ann O’Neal
Youth Ministry Assistant: Shannon Goughan
Music Director: Larry Hart
Parish Council Chair: Jim Kovacs
Business Manager: Joanne Sexton
Director of Maintenance: Steve Quinnette
Parish Secretary: Brenda Butz
Principal: Barbara E. Leek
School Secretary: Roberta Hurst
School: 5335 W. 16th St., 317-241-6314 (P-6)
Number of Students: 263
Masses: Saturday Anticipation — 5:30 p.m.
Sunday — 7:30, 9:30, 12:30 and 5:30 p.m.
Holy Day Anticipation — 5:30 p.m.
Holy Day — 8:00, 9:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
Weekdays — 9:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

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The Criterion Friday, December 18, 1998 Page 9
Penance services

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled Advent communal penance services. The following is a list of services that have been reported to The Criterion.

**Batesville Deanery**
- Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. at St. Charles, Milan
- Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas, Sunman
- Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Morris
- Dec. 22, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Morris

**Indianapolis East Deanery**
- Dec. 21, 7-8 p.m. at St. Mary

**Indianapolis North Deanery**
- Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence

**Indianapolis South Deanery**
- Dec. 20, 4 p.m. for Sacred Heart, Good Shepherd, Holy Rosary and St. Patrick, at Sacred Heart
- Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

**Indianapolis West Deanery**
- Dec. 20, 2 p.m. at St. Anthony

**New Albany Deanery**
- Dec. 20, 3 p.m. at St. Joseph, Corydon, Most Precious Blood, New Middletown, and St. Peter, Harrison Co.
- Dec. 21, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville
- Dec. 21, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, New Albany

**Terre Haute Deanery**
- Dec. 20, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Rockville
- Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute

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† Mausoleum pricing is in most cases *less expensive* than in-ground burial.

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*Artist drawing of St. Joseph Courtyard Mausoleum*
There were shepherds abiding in the fields...

To shepherds poor the Lord most high.
The one great shepherd, was revealed.

— Christmas lauds hymn
Roman rite
Church of the Nativity has seen many wars

By John F. Fink

The land where the “prince of peace” was born has seldom known peace. And the church built over the site of Jesus’ birth has sometimes been involved in wars and conflict. The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, for example, figured importantly in the Muslim siege of Vienna in 1683 and in the Crimean War of 1854.

The Church of the Nativity is considered to be the oldest Christian church in the world. It was built by St. Helena, the mother of Constantine, in 332, when she (or, technically, her son) ordered churches to be built over the sites of Christ’s birth, death and resurrection, and ascension. It was then renovated by Justin in the sixth century.

In 614, the Persians invaded the Holy Land and destroyed all the Christian churches except the Church of the Nativity. It was spared because the invaders found a mosaic of the three Magi, wearing Persian robes, inside the church.

After the crusaders conquered the Holy Land, Baldwin I was crowned “King of the Latins” in the Church of the Nativity on Nov. 11, 1100. The crusaders set about repairing and rebuilding numerous churches in the Holy Land. One of the repairs to the Church of the Nativity consisted of putting on a new roof, for which they used lead to keep the roof from leaking for centuries.

It remained that way for more than five centuries. But in the latter half of the 17th century, the Turks were threatening to overrun all of Europe. They had already conquered Hungary and laid siege to Vienna. That’s when Pope Innocent XI urged the Polish king, John Sobieski, and the German princes to assist Austria. Sobieski led a Christian army to Vienna to fight the Muslim Turks.

The Turks were running out of ammunition. Then someone remembered that the roof of the Church of the Nativity had been built with lead, for which they used lead to keep the roof from leaking for centuries. They had already conquered Hungary and laid siege to Vienna. That’s when Pope Innocent XI urged the Polish king, John Sobieski, and the German princes to assist Austria. Sobieski led a Christian army to Vienna to fight the Muslim Turks.

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Grace is God’s turning toward us with love

By Fr. Dale Launderville, O.S.B.

When the angels proclaim “peace on earth” at the time of Jesus’ birth, they are proclaiming that God has come to change us and the circumstances of our lives so that we can all find an honored and meaningful place in God’s world. Mary provides us with a courageous example of one who freely and fully accepted God’s plan in Jesus. Her conception of Jesus prior to marriage with Joseph, and her giving birth to Jesus in poor conditions on society’s margins, are events early in the story of Jesus which make Anna’s ominous prophecy to Mary about her life with Jesus readily believable: “A sword will pierce your heart” (Luke 2:35).

In its deepest sense, grace is God’s turning toward us to be in relationship with us. The wonder of God’s turning toward us becomes clear in the particularities of our lives, examples of how God speaks to the hearts of people and walks with them to bring about newness and wholeness in their lives. But such newness is only the tip of the iceberg of what God intends for us.

Our true destiny is not simply to behave well so that we are in harmony with all in heaven and on earth. Our destiny is to share in God’s life and be transformed by it! With Jesus’ birth, God highlights the goodness and potential of our embodied human life. And God becomes like us to share fully in the anxieties, limitations, and brokenness of the human condition. God is not a detached spectator who puts us to the test. Rather, God is one who keeps reaching out to us and pouring forth the divine self in order to bring us to new life.

Through the birth of Jesus, God does not merely save us from danger, but rather brings us to share in divine life. Jesus becomes the child of Mary so that we might become children of God!† (Benedictine Father Dale Launderville is a Seminica scholar at St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minn.)

Generosity is the great grace of Advent, Christmas

By Maureen Daly

The Christmas when I was 12, the St. Thomas the Apostle Children’s Choir took its act on the road, Chicago. Our choir director, Father Robert Oldershaw, who later co-edited the widely used hymnal Worship, taught us a repertoire of international songs. Bundled up against the winter air, we set out on foot to visit community centers and old folk’s homes within walking distance of our school in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago’s South Side. Our touring circuit that first season was limited to a radius of a few city blocks, but it opened up a whole new world. Inside buildings we often had walked past but never entered, we were surprised to find fragile elderly residents who were so thrilled to have us visit. Since we rarely met elderly strangers, we were astonished by how pleased they were to have us visit. Their attention was flattering, their applause gratifying, and their gratitude truly touching.

In the coming years, the St. Thomas the Apostle Children’s Choir would have other exciting performing opportunities. The choir would even release an album, but I always remembered that first experience of the gratitude of strangers.

The great grace of the Christmas season is the widespread impulse to generosity. One of the greatest gifts to give children is the sense that they have something to offer to the wider world, something the world will be grateful for. If adults don’t provide opportunities, children will invent them. For children or adults, generosity is the great grace of Christmas. Throughout the year there is no greater gift than giving someone an opportunity to be needed, a chance to be generous.†

(Maureen Daly is an associate editor for special projects at Catholic News Service.)
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Crèche symbolizes reality of God with us

By Fr. Lawrence E. Mick

My first image of Christmas is of the manger scene, with Mary and Joseph and the child surrounded by ox and ass and sheep, and shepherds and wise men from the East. It’s a good image. We are indebted to St. Francis of Assisi, who was the creator of such crèche scenes in the 13th century. But how did people think of Christmas well before St. Francis? It is likely, of course, that some would have imagined a similar scene, because the Gospels of Matthew and Luke describe the various elements that make up the traditional crèche scene. But there were other images that can enrich our own understanding of the meaning of Christmas.

The Scripture readings assigned to the various Masses of Christmas give us some additional ways of thinking about the feast. The first reading for the Vigil Mass of Christmas speaks of Christmas as a wedding: “As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you.” This image of Christmas as the wedding of heaven and earth, of humanity and divinity, is an ancient way of thinking about the significance of Christ’s birth. Christmas celebrates the incarnation, the enfleshment of God. It rejoices in the union of God and man, and divinity, is an ancient way of thinking of heaven and earth, of humanity and divinity, is an ancient way of thinking of heaven and earth.

The second reading for the Mass on Christmas Day speaks of Christ’s coming in terms of light and darkness:

> “What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

> “The true light, which enlightens every- one, was coming into the world.”

> “The Gospel also speaks of Christ in terms of the eternal Word who was present at the creation of all things and came into the world to give those who believe in him “the power to become children of God.”

Sometimes grace comes to us in the strangest ways

By Sr. Theresa Sanders, R.S.C.J.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. We don’t like to believe that. We want to encounter God in familiar, comfortable ways. Often, God complies with our wishes. We find grace in dinner with friends or in Scripture passages we know by heart. Yet there are other times when God breaks through familiar routines so the awesomeness of divine love strikes us with a force we would not have thought possible.

I remember one of those times. It was a hot, steamy summer day in Washington, D.C. I was looking forward to having lunch with Karen, an old friend. We arranged to meet at a subway station.

On the day of our appointment, I lost track of the hour. I was already 15 minutes late for our lunch when I caught a cab to the subway station.

Once there, I scanned the faces in the crowd but couldn’t find her. Then it dawned on me that there were two exits at that subway station. I ran across a busy intersection to the other exit, but there was no one there—except for a panhandler. “Hey, lady,” the man said.

“I didn’t turn around.”

“Hey, lady,” he said again. “Are you looking for Karen?”

“What? Well ... yes, I am,” I replied.

Then the man stood up and began shouting across the intersection.

“Hey, Karen, here she is! Here she is!”

Out of the crowd, my friend turned around and ran over to meet me. We hugged and went off to the restaurant. As we talked, Karen told me about the homeless man who brought us together. While she waited, they had had a long conversation. She knew his name and all about his family, and said I should pray for him because there was a chance the man soon could reunite with his family.

Sometimes grace comes in the strangest of ways. As Christmas nears, I think how easy it would be to miss the gift of the Christ child, a child born to poor parents, a child for whom there was no room at an inn but only a manger for a bed.

Let’s keep watch. Let’s keep our eyes open and see what grace might appear.†

† (Sister Theresa Sanders is a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. She teaches theology at Manhattansville College in Purchase, N.Y.)
Parents teach child meaning of giving

By Margaret Bordenkecher Kennedy

I wanted a red rosary for Christmas. I wanted a doll, too—one that opened and closed her eyes—but mostly I wanted a red rosary. My little sister wanted a doll with a hat and coat.

Mama had told us that the war wasn’t long past and materials were still hard to come by. Even Santa Claus had to have materials to make toys, she said, so we children would have to understand if it was a slim Christmas.

The year just past had been a hard one for my parents. Daddy had experienced several layoffs, and both of my parents were trying hard to feed and clothe the nine of us children. In addition to that, they were struggling to keep my oldest sister in St. Mary Academy and my oldest brother in Sacred Heart High School where you had to pay something called “tuition.”

In our Catholic elementary school, Sister tried to prepare us for Advent. She told us about preparing our hearts and minds for Christmas. I thought about what Sister had told us that the nine of us would know a happy Christmas. I knew in that moment that my parents had sacrificed and given of themselves so that Love is alive among them in Jesus; that Love is alive among them in Jesus;

Christmas Eve arrived. We spent the day helping Mama clean the house and run errands as we waited in great anticipation for that evening. At our house, we followed my father’s tradition of Santa arriving on Christmas Eve after supper. The older children would then attend Midnight Mass at St. Philip Neri Church, and we younger children would go to the 9 o’clock Mass. The stockings hanging from the mantle were puffed with small gifts, which told us that the kindly saint had indeed arrived. Daddy turned on the lights, and we saw nine small piles of gifts placed around the cozy room.

From then on, chaos reigned as the nine of us greedily examined our gifts with oohs and aahs. My little sister received her doll with its navy blue coat lined with a soft light blue. I couldn’t keep my eyes from the doll. It looked oddly familiar! Then I recognized it as an old one that had been in the box. The material from the coat strongly resembled some of the material that Mama kept in her material scrap box. The refurbished doll was indeed beautiful!

Then I saw my own gifts. My doll was there, but her head was slightly askew, telling me that it came from the part of the store where they sold “seconds.” But her lovely eyes opened and closed, and when turned, she cried “ma-ma.” She had a soft blue dotted-swiss dress and bonnet. In spite of her crooked legs, she was mine, and I loved her.

Then I spied a small gold box. It had “Krug Bros.” written on the lid. With shaking hands, I opened it. There on a little nest of cotton lay a shimmering crimson rosary. The little beads were of faceted red glass, and they reflected the lights from the tree. The crucifix was of gold with a halo encircling the head of Jesus. I looked around to tell Mama and Daddy that I had gotten my Christmas wish. They stood near the doorway. I stopped and stared at what I saw. Even though they had no gifts to open, their eyes were aglow with happiness and unselﬁsh love.

I knew in that moment that my parents had taught us about preparing our hearts and minds for Christmas. I knew in that moment that my parents had taught us about preparing our hearts and minds for Christmas.

Baby’s arrival is Christmas surprise

By Joan E. Ebacher

Christmas 1940 was very memorable for me. I am the second eldest in a family of 12, and I grew up in the middle of Chicago. Christmas morning. My parents woke me up with the news that a new baby had been born. The baby was a girl. She was our gift from the Christ Child. I still have the doll and the rosary from that long ago Christmas. The doll no longer says “ma-ma” and her lovely complexion has darkened with age. The rosary has one badly cracked bead, and nine of the beads have been replaced.

To me, though, they are still beautiful as reminders of my ﬁrst realization of the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. They remind me of the deep love of my parents, which reﬂected the love of God. †

† (Margaret Bordenkecher Kennedy is a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Indianapolis.)

Christmas memories

Readers share special Christmas memories

By Joan E. Ebacher

Christmas 1940 was very memorable for me. I am the second eldest in a family of 12, and I grew up in the middle of Chicago. Christmas morning. My parents woke me up with the news that a new baby had been born. The baby was a girl. She was our gift from the Christ Child. I still have the doll and the rosary from that long ago Christmas. The doll no longer says “ma-ma” and her lovely complexion has darkened with age. The rosary has one badly cracked bead, and nine of the beads have been replaced. The chain linking the beads doesn’t want to stay together.

To me, though, they are still beautiful as they are reminders of my first realization of the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. They remind me of the deep love of my parents, which reflected the love of God. †

† (Margaret Bordenkecher Kennedy is a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Indianapolis.)

A Mission Thought for Christmas

In the waiting days to Christmas, my heart rejoices in the faith that tells me “Christ is born!” and lives among us, saving, healing with His love. In the waiting days to Christmas, my heart rejoices in the faith that tells me “Christ is born!” and lives among us, saving, healing with His love.

In the waiting days to Christmas, my heart is also torn, my mind stretched across the world, thinking of the child of war, the refugee, the orphan, small images of God to reach and teach that Love is alive among them in Jesus; that Love is alive among them in Jesus; that Love is alive among them in Jesus.

In the waiting days to Christmas, my heart is also torn, my mind stretched across the world, thinking of the child of war, the refugee, the orphan, small images of God to reach and teach that Love is alive among them in Jesus; that Love is alive among them in Jesus; that Love is alive among them in Jesus.

Help me, Lord, to be for them Your missionary, here, today, right where I am. Help me, Lord, to be for them Your missionary, here, today, right where I am.
A stocking for Jesus is a family tradition
By Margaret A. Hillan

Traditions are the glue that help bond families long after individual members have left the childhood home to begin families of their own.

Believing that, my husband, Bob, and I have continued many traditions that began in our families generations before. We have also tried to implement a number of traditions for our children. Our most treasured family tradition came about because of a child’s innocent question.

About 30 years ago, I made red felt Christmas stockings for each member of our family. Our six small children watched with excitement as we hung them early in December.

Suddenly, one small voice asked, “Mommy, where is Jesus’ stocking? You said he is our brother, but he doesn’t have a stocking.”

I made another stocking that very day and inscribed it with the name “Jesus.”

In an effort to extend the holidays a bit for our little ones, we decided that we would fill the stockings on the Sunday before Christmas, and that they would be filled with gifts that the children chose for each other. We hoped that, with such a large family, this would encourage “small” gifts throughout the years, allowing us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

It was such fun! While the others were up in the balcony were already taken by numerous folding chairs that had been set up in the balcony. That was the only time I ever allowed children to sit up there. Many of the guests left the area at Midnight Mass, but that Christmas Eve is one I will never forget. It was a little too much excitement for me. It was very crowded. We ran out and fell onto the chairs!

My husband, Steve, and I were returning home after opening gifts with his family. Since we had no children, we enjoyed being out late. We had moved to Shelby County, but since we were visiting relatives in Indianapolis we decided to attend Midnight Mass at the parish where we were married, then drive home and sleep in on Christmas morning.

We arrived at the church just in time for Mass. It was very crowded. We ran into a friend and joined him and his sons in the balcony. That was the only time I ever had ever been up there. Many of the numerous folding chairs that had been set up in the balcony were already taken by other late arrivals.

The Mass was wonderful, especially with all the Christmas songs. One of my favorite parts of the Mass is the time to offer the Sign of Peace to each other. I always feel so good inside when I do that!  

What is the most special way to celebrate Christmas, other than attending Midnight Mass?

There are several ways I can recall, but the most memorable celebration for me happened at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis a few years ago. Father William Munshower, a wonderful friend, was the pastor there then. He answered a child’s question about Jesus’ stocking.

What was his answer? “What you do unto others, you do unto Jesus.”

It was such an ideal answer to one’s innocent question on Christmas Eve.

On that memorable night, after I kissed my husband and shook hands with our friends, I greeted other people nearby. When I grasped one young man’s hand and said “Peace be with you,” he passed out and fell onto the chairs!

Thankfully, he wasn’t hurt. I was totally surprised and shocked! I didn’t know if I should feel uncomfortable or not. I would imagine he was embarrassed, but his family was with him and he seemed fine after a few moments. I think he stayed for the remainder of the Mass. It was awkwardly crowded and the incense smelled very strong in the balcony, which probably caused him to faint.

I do not know who this young man is, but that Christmas Eve is one I will never forget. It was a little too much excitement for one night!†

†(Linda Beatty is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville.)

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Blessed Wishes

Photo by Mary Ann Wyand
Christmas memories focus on faith, family

Christmas Eve Mass was joyous, uplifting
By Elizabeth Vollmer Suding

The first memory I have of Holy Cross Church in Indianapolis is the beauty of it at Christmas time. I would go there with my parents to see the nativity set and to put my shiny new pennies in the golden dish at the foot of the manger.

On Christmas Eve I would go to Midnight Mass with my family, and years later with my sweetheart. I can remember Professor Klein softly playing the organ up in the choir loft. The church smelled of candle wax and flowers, and there was a warm and quiet feeling in the air.

The lights would be dimmed, and 10 nuns would enter the eastside door in single file, each carrying a lighted candle, and go quietly to their seats in the front-row pew reserved for them. There was a quiet beauty and dignity about them.

Then the notes of the organ would start to swell and fill the church. We could hear singing and would turn to see the choir boys coming down the center aisle. They looked beautiful in their long red cassocks with snowy white surplices over them.

They held candles and sang in Latin, perhaps “Venite Adoramus” or “Panis Angelicus.” They would process to the front of the church, followed by the servers and the priests. At the front, some of the boys would go to the right, others to the left, then across the front of the church and down the side aisles back to the choir loft, with Father Goossens, to continue their singing at intervals during the Mass, which was a pageant of beauty.

At Communion time, everyone would stand and walk to the front to kneel beside the altar rail.

After the Mass, the choir continued to sing as people would go up to the front of the church to kneel and say prayers next to the nativity scene.

Then we would all leave for home. Most of us walked to church then, and we would greet friends all along the way home as the music followed us out the doors and down the street.

Many of us went home and enjoyed hot cocoa and little Christmas cookies. Later, as we drifted off to sleep, the sound of carols echoing in our minds, we knew that Christmas was really here, right then, all around us.

(Elizabeth Vollmer Suding is a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.)

War-time Christmas necessitates sacrifice
By Bernadine Purcell

My whole world seemed to be turned upside down in December 1941.

There were new songs during the holiday season, and the song “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” brought sadness. I thought about my two brothers, who had been drafted into the service of their country the past spring and realized that because of World War II we wouldn’t be having a family reunion this Christmas.

I busied myself baking cookies. They would make nice gifts and be easy on our budget. Fortunately, our ration stamps supplied me with sufficient sugar.

My husband and I were adjusting to our new living conditions. We were now living in my old familiar neighborhood. The two front rooms of a friend’s house were sufficient for our bedroom and kitchen furniture. Months before, we had rented the only place available that fit within our budget.

Later, as we drifted off to sleep, the sound of carols echoing in our minds, we knew that Christmas was really here, right then, all around us.

(Bernadine Purcell is a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville.)

A Very Blessed Christmas and Prosperous New Year
from Father Michael Kelley and Sacred Heart Parish Clinton, Indiana and St. Joseph Parish Universal, Indiana

In recent years, the interior of Holy Cross Church in Indianapolis has served as a temporary storage site for large quantities of food during some days of Advent. The donated food is distributed to needy people in the center city before Thanksgiving and Christmas.
Surprise engagement adds to the joy of Christmas

By Sharon Mickel

When I think of Christmas, I think of family. Recently our own growing families have been tugging us in different directions.

When I was younger, my parents and I, along with my eight brothers and sisters and their spouses and children, would gather at Christmas. It was so fun! Our living room would be overflowing with family. It was bedlam, but I loved it. The smallest members of our family would be Santa’s “elves.” They would go to the tree and bring presents to everyone.

Lights fascinated me. As a child, I would get up early, sneak downstairs in the dark, plug in the Christmas tree and enjoy the peace and solitude. And some nights my parents would pack us all in the car and we’d drive around town enjoying the Christmas lights.

Now I love how our 5-year-old daughter, Anna, enjoys the twinkling lights. Seeing how her eyes grow wide at the beautiful displays brings back my own childish excitement. Even our baby, Rachael, noticed the neighbor’s Christmas lights. She pointed and smiled and chanted, “La-ee! La-ee!”

What a nice tradition to continue! Looking back at my childhood years, we sure didn’t have much. We were always wearing hand-me-down clothes, and Mom was always scrimping and saving. I noticed that we didn’t have extravagant gifts like some of my friends. But I don’t remember Christmas as being anything but magical. How did my parents do it?

When my husband, Jeff, and I were dating, we spent Christmas with both of our families. First we’d visit his family. On Christmas Eve, after church services, they would slowly open and savor each present. There was lots of time to sip fragrant flavored coffees, talk and rest.

On Christmas morning, Jeff and I would make the nearly four-hour drive to my hometown. As usual, holiday bedlam prevailed at our family gathering. To me, it was exciting and familiar, but I think Jeff was shocked by all the noise and commotion.

On our second Christmas together, about 30 members of my family were gathered at my brother Mike’s house. I was stunned when my niece, Molly, handed me a small package containing a lovely diamond ring.

Jeff proposed to me in front of everyone! He was so bold!

I wept with joy, and he told me how happy he was that I’d accepted. But I mischievously replied that I hadn’t accepted yet! Then I quickly said what was in my heart: “Yes!” But I’ll never be allowed to forget the moment of acceptance yet! Then I quickly said what was in my heart: “Yes!” But I’ll never be allowed to forget the moment of torture I put him through!

And, of course, five years ago, in the biggest change of my life, I became a mother six days before Christmas. On Christmas Eve, there were “elves” tak- ing off in many directions. Some went to finish shopping for gifts so there would be presents under the tree. Others went to find candy canes to fill the stockings. One “elf” even remembered to bring the fresh shrimp so that age-old tradition in our house could continue for yet another holiday.

When I look back at the photographs taken that year, I readily laugh at the fun we had despite the emptiness we all felt for Dad. I thank God once again for my family and offer a prayer for Dad.

And when I retell the story to my children, I remind them—as my mother reminded me—that comfort comes from God and through him all things are possible.

Margaret Ruffing

Sudden death of father unites family for bittersweet holiday

By Margaret Ruffing

That first Christmas on my own was different than any other—not because I had planned to spend it 600 miles from home, but because I would be home after all. My father had been involved in a car accident and had not survived.

I will always hold dear the new friendships I found with each of my brothers and sisters and my mother that Christmas. We held each other in sorrow, laughed with each other in fun, and prayed with each other in thanksgiving.

“Give thanks to God in all things,” my mother always said, and this time was no exception. Dad had led a good life. Each of us was at peace with him before he died.

And just 10 days earlier, we had all been together to celebrate my wedding.

Just as the Grinch discovers in the Dr. Seuss Christmas story, no matter what happens, Christmas has a way of coming just the same.

That year, on Christmas Eve, there were “elves” taking off in many directions. Some went to finish shopping for gifts so there would be presents under the tree for everyone. Others went to find candy canes to fill the stockings. One “elf” even remembered to bring the fresh shrimp so that age-old tradition in our house could continue for yet another holiday.

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(Margaret Ruffing is a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis.)

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Holiday gifts include memories of family

Gift from God helps family at Christmas
By Mary Ann Wyand

Last year, during Advent, my family received a gift from God. It was a blessed surprise for us, and a priceless present, especially after losing my mother to cancer in March of 1996 and my sister to cancer in March of 1997. Shortly after my sister died at age 50, her daughter discovered she was expecting her third child. The joy of my niece’s unexpected pregnancy helped carry us all through months of grieving.

Nathan was born on Dec. 6, 1997, the feast of St. Nicholas, and weighed in at 10 pounds. He looks like the Gerber baby, with blond hair, blue eyes and a charming smile. Even as a newborn, he smiled a lot and seemed delighted to be held by anyone.

I asked Amy how she and her husband, Bruce, happened to name him Nathan. She said it was the only name they could agree on.

“Did you look it up?” I asked.

“No,” she replied. “We just talked about names, and since we already have Nathan, his older brother, Joe, and his older sister, Emily, I will never forget how, in the midst of my family’s sorrow, God gave us this priceless gift as a reminder that life goes on.

(Nancy Ann Wyand is a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis.)

Homemade candy is tasty part of holiday
By Anne-Margaret O’Sullivan

One of my delightful Christmas memories is our custom, even during the Depression, of making a variety of homemade candy to celebrate the holiday.

When I asked Amy to describe how she made candy to celebrate the holiday, she replied, “We just talked about names, and since we already have Joseph Paul, that was the only other boy’s name.”

“A gift given of God?” Amy asked, “With Mom so sick and dying, we weren’t thinking about babies!”

Nathan was baptized on the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord last January, and I am his godmother as well as his great-aunt.

He’s walking now, and we’re all looking forward to sharing Christmas with Nathan, his older brother, Joe, and his older sister, Emily.

“Blond” fudge to whatever skill I had. I made peanut butter and added nuts or coconut to at least one batch. Mother or Kirby, my older sister, always made the fudge.

“Mother or Kirby, my older sister, always made the fudge.”

So we were delighted to be held by anyone.

“I asked Amy how she and her husband, Bruce, happened to name him Nathan.”

I nodded, and smiled, and told her the name Nathan means “a gift given of God.”

“My family’s sorrow, God gave us this priceless gift as a reminder that life goes on.”

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Our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Hillenbrand Industries.
Christmas crèche is symbol of faith, love

By Mary Jo Keegan

For centuries, Christians have looked to the crèche to more fully understand and appreciate the meaning and simplicity of a silent night in Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago.

To many of us, this single scene reenforces our faith, renewes our hope and strengthens our assurance of the abiding love God will always have for us.

As we place manger scenes throughout our homes during Advent, we truly are reminded that “Jesus is the reason for this season.”

The cribs we place prominently throughout our homes during December evoke so many memories as we cherish again the family history they symbolize.

Some crèche sets are high in quality, and we handle them carefully to preserve their value. Others we assemble gently because our home has been chosen to be the guardian of Gramma’s crib, the one loved and remembered by our extended family.

But, for those of us who use several cribs to express Christmas in our home’s holiday decorations, there is surely that one manger scene placed tenderly in its special place.

For us, it’s the crib consisting of five little pieces of scrap wood and only three inexpensive plastic pieces. This treasured gift was “created” by Kristen’s little hands during her preschool class in 1986. And it’s just beautiful!

Kristen, whose little hands assembled this simple crèche, is now a junior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

I’m grateful to her for defining the simplicity and totality of the Christmas story displayed in her Grammy’s cherished crib.†

(Mary Jo Keegan is a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.)

Holiday with family is a time to treasure

By Patricia Gause

Awakening to my mother’s call on an early Christmas morning with news of a new-fallen snow, the excitement of Christmas motivated me to get out of my warm bed.

The upstairs rooms were cold, even though Mother had already stoked the coal furnace, which I wasn’t aware of at that time.

My father died at 48 years, leaving my mother with the task of raising six children ages 16 down to 6 months (me). We lived in a big old house which sat way back from North Keystone Avenue in the five acres of land just outside the Indianapolis city limits.

When it snowed, it looked like a winter wonderland.

Somehow, we all got dressed for church and piled into a cab to attend Mass at St. Isaac of Armenia Church.

The church was especially beautiful and quiet that day, yet remind us also of the ultimate adoration.

I remember us on special occasions.

My sisters and I each received a special doll from our older cousin, who always remembered us on special occasions.

Our family, alone, was a big group, but sometimes Grandpa, or our great aunts, would come and join us for dinner. The table was very festive, with candles lit and all the good dishes. We enjoyed the feast that Mother had prepared.

After dinner, we played with our own new toys and with each other’s toys. Sometimes Mother would play the piano, and we were allowed to entertain our guests by singing and acting. Being the “baby,” I would tap dance.

We had a very joyful day and were happy when we went to bed with our new dolls. The bedroom was cold and the covers were warm, and we’d talk and giggle until we fell asleep. The snow was still falling and it was quiet. How blessed we were!†

(Patricia Gause is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.)

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Ice skaters enjoy skating on a frozen stream in this 1870 Currier & Ives lithograph titled “Winter Pastimes.” The artwork is from the collection of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.
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God’s grace blankets us in love and compassion

By Carole Norris Greene

It started as tiny specks of ice dancing on my car’s windshield as I drove to my home in Baltimore, Md.

There it took the shape of ribbons of dust, playfully swirling about my feet as it accompanied me from my driveway to the front door. By morning, everything outside was bedecked in white splendor as giant snowflakes parachuted down incessantly.

So began the blizzard of 1996. A day later, the entire metropolitan area was practically immobilized.

Then it felt more like Christmas than at the time of the actual Christmas about two weeks earlier. I was glad we hadn’t taken down our tree.

But more than images of Christmas came to mind as I beheld the winter wonderland. For if I had to give shape to my concept of the outpouring of God’s grace—God’s unmerited love and favor—it would take the form of snow, pure and majestic, gently falling, but at the same time able to arrive with the force of an avalanche.

Grace, like snow blowing hard against my face, must have been at work the summer night I was driving home from a prayer group across town.

I had traveled the same route for years, yet on this particular night I missed my turn onto a road I always took to expedite the Christmas season.

Christmas teaches us not to judge by appearances. The story of Jesus helps us discover that appearances—surface impressions—never tell the whole story.

By David Gibson

Christmas teaches us not to judge by appearances. The story of Jesus helps us discover that appearances—surface impressions—never tell the whole story.

For here is the Messiah, the long-awaited king, born in a stable. Yet the baby Jesus lay in a manger. By day a humble shepherd, by night a king. We are unmoved by appearances.

Christmas teaches us that appearances are not the whole story. The story of Jesus helps us discover that appearances—surface impressions—never tell the whole story.

By Carole Norris Greene, Indianapolis, Ind.

The power of God’s grace intensified with Chase’s testimony. He too was in the car when its 18-year-old driver lost control on a rain-slick street, hitting two trees in succession before the vehicle burst into flames.

Chase told how his big brother instantly shielded him upon the first impact, then let him go as he lost consciousness, allowing Chase to crawl through the Mustang’s side window.

Once outside, grace froze all panic, giving Chase the presence of mind to drop to the ground and roll to extinguish the flames erupting on the back of his shirt.

And at no time, Chase assured his parents, did Angelo and the other boys pinned beneath the car even say a word, scream or move.

“Angelo was an eager student, a dutiful son who looked after his younger brothers,” Angelo’s mother said. “He was never ours,” Angelo’s mother said. “God loaned him to us for a while. Now he stands before the Lord forever.” (Mardi Abbott, Lincoln, Neb.)

“For here is the Messiah, the long-awaited king, born in a stable. Yet the baby Jesus lay in a manger. By day a humble shepherd, by night a king. We are unmoved by appearances.” (Elaine Hemenway, Houston, Texas)

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“This Christmas family in East Baltimore was caught up in a hailstorm of grace after their 14-year-old son, Angelo, died along with two other boys in a fiery car crash in October.

Their community held its breath for their response. Didn’t the Carpintieri family hold the breath for their response. Didn’t the Carpintieri family hold the breath for their response.

“The Christmas there were six of us, and we all got bikes. That supported the fact there was a Santa Claus—because my dad didn’t know how to put bikes together!” (Cathy Roney, Mishawaka, Ind.)

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The Carpintieri family in East Baltimore was caught up in a hailstorm of grace after their 14-year-old son, Angelo, died along with two other boys in a fiery car crash in October.

“There was the blessing in the events surrounding this painful loss of a child?...” (David Gibson edits Faith Alive!)
The Bottom Line/Antoinette Bosco

Last year of the 20th century is here

I always enjoy wishing my readers a Happy New Year as January dawns, and this year is no exception. But I have to admit it is not going to be an ordinary year. As we put up our liturgical calendars, we must note that the year ahead is a strange one, with a Monday that we must prepare for huge servings of dire predictions for what’s ahead in this last year of the century.

At the end of a century always captures the imaginations of some people as a time of catastrophic change, mostly in the form of punishment. And the doomsday people are already out in force, aided by a technological uncertainty called “Y2K,” which is computer speak for “Year 2000.”

If you haven’t heard of this one, you’d have to be unconscious. It’s called the Millennium Bug. Put simply, the many computers are set up, they use only two digits to determine the year. For example, the year 2000 arrives these computers will interpret the 00 as being 1900. The result will be a computer transcription error, or “Y2K bug,” which was reported to shake us up and get a religious revival

Y2K problem may be a warning from God

That nicely counteracts the doom-and-gloom message. Let’s all make 1999 a great year where love prevails, preparing ourselves for a glorious new year 2000. Happy New Year, my friends. t

(Antoinette Bosco is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)

The Yardstick/Msgr. George G. Higgins

The worsening plight of farm workers

NBC-TV recently featured a one-hour documentary on the trials and tribulations of a family of 10 migrant farm workers who, over a six-month period, followed the migrant workers from their home in the Rio Grande Valley to Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, and back again to Texas, with little or nothing to show for their labor and no assurance of a better-futile journey.

It was a heartbreaking story, but at the same time an inspiring example of what psychologist Robert Coles has described in the foreword to a new book about migrant workers as the mystery of suffering. Out of it, he says, “can emerge an ironic sto-}

(Y2K scare, Composer Rick Kaethe and comedian Adam Kretch have come up with a funny song, released by Fire Hucker, “No one's gonna make a down a tear has been delivered with a few yuks,” they explained.

The doomsday predictions are also prov-}

The Criterion

Farm Workers Today

by Daniel Rothenberg (Harcourt Brace), 1998). The best available book of its kind, it is based on 250 interviews in the United States and Mexico with migrant workers, grow-

ers, crew leaders and labor contractors, government officials, union leaders, government officials, et al.

While Rothenberg makes no secret of his own pro-migrant views, he leans over backward to be fair to growers and processors, and to all others involved in any way in the U.S. agricultural industry. There are some villains in his survey of the industry, but he is more interested in changing the farm labor system than in fingerling the villains or separating the sheep from the goats.

“The key components of the farm labor system,” he says, “have been a steady oversupply of workers and the use of a series of techniques to consistently disem- power farm workers.”

Rothenberg’s magnificent book is also meant to awaken all of us to the plight of the 1.5 million men, women (and all too often children) who provide for us the world’s most abundant and cheapest supply of fruits and vegetables. He deplors the fact that the farm labor system has made complex that which is simple. Perhaps no other group is as repugnant to us but evident as evidence of the perfection of God, their ultimate cre-}

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The Book of Isaiah is the source of the first reading for this fourth Sunday of Advent.

Rarely were kings, in either of the two kingdoms carved from the domain of David and Solomon, regarded kindly by the prophets, but all were seen as God’s instruments. Surely this is the case in this reading.

King Ahaz of Judah has the privilege of actually hearing the voice of God. The king is faithful and in awe of God. The king calls all those in the kingdom to be strong in their loyalty to God.

God will not forsake the Chosen People. Divine protection and guidance will continue. A new leader will be born.

This prophecy probably referred to the pending birth of the king’s own son. As the child’s mother was a virgin, she will surely be her firstborn, and the heir.

The Church, of course, over the centuries has seen in this event a foreshadowing of the coming of Christ. Supplying the second reading is the Epistle to the Romans. This reading is from the very beginning of the epistle. Paul, its author, initiates his writing by sending greetings to all.

When Paul wrote, Rome was not only the capital of Western civilization, it was the largest city in the vast Roman Empire. The results of any census do not survive. However, estimates are that as many as one million people lived in the great imperial city.

Rome was a very cosmopolitan community. Within its walls dwelt people from all parts of the empire, among them many Jews. Some of these Jews had brought with them knowledge of Jesus. Romans of other backgrounds had converted to Christianity. Although the Christian group in the city was numerous.

To these Christians, Paul directed his attention in this epistle. Of course, the exact date of its composition is unknown.

This reading is a great proclamation of Jesus as Lord. First, Paul clearly identifies himself as a “servant of Christ Jesus” (Rom 1:1). He extols Jesus as the Son of God, the descendant of David, born as a human but divine nevertheless.

Jesus rose from the dead and he calls all believers to discipleship, Paul emphasized, so spreading the Gospel is the task of every Christian.

St. Matthew’s Gospel once again this Advent season furnishes the Gospel. This is the story of the Lord’s conception according to Matthew. Of the four Gospels, only Matthew and Luke report the birth of Jesus in any detail. Of these two, Matthew’s Gospel has the shorter, though not insignificant, version.

The story is filled with expressive statements. First, the virginity of Mary is made clear, then the power of the Holy Spirit in the conception of Christ is verified. Next an angel announces the future arrival of the Son of God. In Jewish tradition, angels only revealed the most momentous of events. Then the angel reassures Joseph, and Joseph accepts the angel’s word, giving credence through his faith to the angel’s holy mission. The forthcoming birth of Jesus was in full accord with the ancient prophecies.

Reflection

The Gospel this weekend is a splendid affirmation of the person and mission of the Lord Jesus. He is human among humans as the son of Mary. Without an earthly father, he is the Son of God. All ages have looked forward to the Lord’s coming. The prophets of old captured this anticipated treasure. Reinforcing this Gospel revelation are the powerful words of Paul in the Epistle. Jesus is Lord. He is the Son of God. He is the Redeemer.

Proclaiming the Lord’s message is the greatest act of love for others and for God. Isaiah foretold the coming. This great prophet reassured his contemporaries that God would protect the Chosen People through all ages.

He is true to this promise. Jesus is the Redeemer, the Consoled, and the Lord of Life.

Joseph, the husband of Mary, is an interesting figure. His faith and trust in God enabled him to see reality and to understand truth. He believed even though belief meant setting aside the basic law of nature, that among humans offspring came as the result of a physical union between one man and one woman.

For Joseph, the reward was the great privilege of God’s consolation. As Advent concludes, as Christmas approaches, in these readings the Church presents us with the Lord Jesus. Faith in Jesus brings us insight and the great reward of peace of soul. †

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Gospel reading varies for three Christmas liturgies

Q My question concerns the different Gospels read at Masses on Christmas. Why is the true Christmas Gospel read only at midnight Mass? Is it so anti-climactic to go to Mass on Christmas morning, and there’s barely a word mentioned about the shepherds we’re even there. I don’t think it’s fair that when we attend a later Mass we cannot listen to the words of Christ’s birth. Whose decision is this, and can anything be done about it? (North Carolina)

A First, a bit of background for this question may be helpful. People who attend the same Christmas Mass each year may not be aware that three entirely different Masses are provided in the Church’s liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord. The first is at midnight; it is often called the “main” Christmas Mass, since the Gospel passage tells of the birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-14). The Gospel for the second Mass, officially at dawn, is the story of the shepherds, hearing the good news and coming to Bethlehem (Lk 2:15-20). I suspect your concern centers mostly on the Gospel for the third Mass, later in the morning, the prologue to the Gospel According to John (1:1-18). While theolog- ically one of the most magnificent passages in the New Testament, it contains no narrative connection with the birth of Jesus, which most people naturally look for on that day.

Reasons for these multiple liturgies go back to ancient times. Celebrations in Rome of the feast of the Lord’s Nativity, beginning somewhere around the year 300, imitated somewhat the custom in Jerusalem of a midnight Mass in Bethlehem and a morning Mass on Calvary.

At least by the time of Pope Gregory the Great (590-604), the pope (later other cler- gy) celebrated Christmas with three Masses. Midwinter Mass took place at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the major basilica in Christendom in honor of the mother of Jesus.

From there, people marched toward the Roman Forum, to the church of St. Mary, a martyry of the Byzantine Church, for Mass around daybreak. (This was, it seems, a courtesy to the large community of Egyptian, Syrian, and other Catholic living near by at the time.)

Finally, the procession wound to the Basilica of St. Peter for a late morning Mass. Some of this history is a little fogged by time, and details changed over the years. But the pattern of three Masses continued.

Obviously, at least theoretically, people participating in these processions, including the clergy, were present for all three Masses. It made sense, therefore, to have three different Scripture and prayer texts. The later dawn and morning Masses built, as it were, on what everyone had heard and prayed earlier in the day.

Equally obvious, that supposition has not been valid for centuries and certainly is not true today. The whole sequence is clearly unrelated to the necessary Mass schedules in most parishes on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. With few exceptions, people now participate in one Mass, determined of course by either the Christmas plans and customs in their families. Whenever they come, as you indicate, they understandably desire to hear, and be spiritually fed by, the Gospel story of the Nativity.

Since the choice from these texts is flexible, a large number of parishes (maybe most) opt to use the Scriptures of midnight Mass, with its story of Mary and Joseph and their journey to Bethlehem, for all Christmas Masses, regardless of time.

This certainly makes it easier for everyone, children particularly, to connect their liturgical worship with the Christmas celebrations and reflections occurring in their homes. †

My Journey to God

Christmas Memories

Once again it’s Christmas, that loveliest time of the year. When we think of family, those we hold most dear. Far ones ... near ones ... all such dear ones, Fondest memories ... often bringing a tear.

Happy times ... some sad times, thoughts of bygone years, Memories of yesterdays, as the New Year nears, Prayerfully and carefully, we close this page of time, Thankfully and trustfully, Lord, we place our hand in thine. We know not what the future holds, but looking in the past, We see so many lovely things that you have made to last, Friendships and family love, memories of long ago,

(Dorothy Moody is a member of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus, Little Flower Parish in Indianapolis.)

Times we’ve shared with those who’ve cared, you’ve been in every bit, Thank you, Lord, for all of this, Richly we’ve been blessed.

By Dorothy Moody

Daily Readings

Monday, Dec. 21
Peter Canisius, priest, religious and doctor of the Church
Song of Songs 2:8-9 or
2 Corinthians 3:14-18a
Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Luke 1:39-45

Tuesday, Dec. 22
1 Samuel 1:24-28 (Response) 1 Samuel 2:1-4, 7-8a
Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday, Dec. 23
John of Canty, priest
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
Psalm 25:4bc-8, 10-14
Luke 1:57-66

Thursday, Dec. 24
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89:2-7, 29
Luke 1:67-79

Vigil of Christmas

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Matthew 1:1-25 or
Matthew 1:18-25

Friday, Dec. 25
Christmas Midnight
Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-21
Dawn
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98:1-6
Hebrews 1:6
John 1:18- or
John 1:1-5, 9-14

(Daily Readings continue P 26)
The Active List

The Criterion welcomes announcements for “The Active List” of parish and church-related activities open to the public. Please keep them brief, listing event, sponsor, date, time and location. No announcements can be taken by tele- phone. No pictures, please. Notices must be in our offices by 10 a.m. on Monday of the week of publication. Hand deliver or mail to: The Criterion, “The Active List,” 1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, Ind., 46206.

December 18
The Catholic Choir of Indianapolis will sing at Parish Retreat House in Keystone at the Crossing from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-216-5588.

December 19
Sacred Heart Parish, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis, will hold a free Christmas concert of “Christmas Carols Old and New” featuring the Sacred Heart Choir starting at 3 p.m. in the church. Information: 317-638-5551.

December 20
Mary’s Revivile Schoenstatt will host the Schoenstatt Holy Hour at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 3:30 p.m. with Father Ed (located on 925 South, 8 miles east of 421 S, 12 miles south of Versailles.) Information: 812-699-3551.

December 21
The Little Sisters of the Poor and residents of St. Augustine’s Home for the Aged, 2345 W. 86th St., will host a holy hour to pray for vocations in the chapel beginning at 4:30 p.m. Information: 317-827-6900.

December 24
The Catholic Choir of Indianapolis will sing at the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Patrick Church, 950 Prospect St. The concert begins at 4 p.m. with Mass following at 4:30 p.m. Information: 317-216-5588.

December 24-25
Sacred Heart Parish, 1530 Union Street, Indianapolis, will celebrate a Family Christmas Mass at 5:30 p.m. and a Midnight Mass preceded by an 11:30 p.m. concert. A 10 a.m. Mass is on Christmas Day. Information: 317-636-5551.

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis, will celebrate a Children’s Christmas program at 7 p.m. and Mass at 9 a.m. 10 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day. Information: 317-652-9349.

December 27-28
The Oldenburg Franciscan Mission will host tours of rooms decorated with different Christmas themes. Tours on Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Information and directions: 812-933-6401.

December 31
The Catholic Charismatic Renewal will gather at Marian College, Francis Hall Chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, with fellowship at 9 p.m. and Mass at 11 a.m. Information: 317-827-6900.

St. Joseph Hill, Sellersburg, will host an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Information: 812-944-5504.

January 2-3
The New Albany Deanery will sponsor a Young Adult Retreat at St. Johns State Park, starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, January 2nd, and Mass at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 3rd. Information: 502-658-2454.

January 4
St. Lawrence Church, Lawrenceburg, will host a Healing Mass directed by Rev. Al Lauer, a Cincinnati pastor, for men from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. January 4th. Information: 513-662-5378.

January 5
St. Anthony Parish, 379 N. St. Anthony Church, Indianapolis, 520 Stevens St., celebrates a Tridentine (Latin) Mass. Call for times. Information: 317-767-5259.

Recurring
Daily
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., hosts perpetual adoration 24 hours a day in the parish center.


Weekly
Sundays

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Clarksville, holds “Be Not Afraid” holy hour from 6-7 p.m.

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Warman, Indianapolis, hosts a Rosary and Benediction for vocations at 2 p.m.

Mondays
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Greenwood, 335 S. Meridian St., hosts a prayer group, 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Tuesdays
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood, meets from 7-8 p.m. in the chapel to pray the rosary and Chapel of Divine Mercy.

St. Joseph Parish, Sellersburg, 2605 St. Joe Rd. West, Shepherds of Christ Associates prays the rosary and other prayers following 7 p.m. Mass.

St. Louis de Monistrol Parish, Fishers, 11441 Hague Rd., offers adult religious education classes from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. There is a minimal fee. Information: 317-842-5869.

Locations throughout the city of Indianapolis!

WHAT IS PERPETUAL ADORATION?
The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance 24 hours a day for adoration, silent prayer & reflection.

WHAT SORT OF COMMITMENT IS NEEDED?
1. One hour each week on a regular basis. For example: 6:00 P.M. every Tuesday.

WHAT HAPPENS IF ONE CANNOT KEEP THEIR SCHEDULED HOUR?
There is a system in which all committed adorers can notify their coordinators or guardians and request for coverage.

“Praying before the Blessed Sacrament provides a most helpful focus for personal prayer. Pursuing a personal relationship with Christ is paramount. Time spent in front of the Blessed Sacrament is the premier way. If we spend time in prayer with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, it becomes more likely and easier to seek and recognize Christ on the path of everyday life. Time spent before Jesus Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament is the premier way. If we spend time in prayer with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, it becomes more likely and easier to seek and recognize Christ on the path of everyday life. Time spent before Jesus Christ present in the Sacrament strengthens our eyes of faith!”

For further information, please contact: Mary Ann Schumann, 3356 West 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46222, 317-926-1963.
Brownsburg, celebrates Liturgy
St. Malachy Parish, vice, 7 p.m.
St. Patrick Parish, Salem, and religious vocations.
gather at 7 p.m to pray for lay
Shepherds of Christ Associates
St. Mary Parish, New Albany,
5:30 p.m. Mass.
Chapel from 7 a.m. to
Blessed Sacrament in the
Indianapolis, hosts adoration of the
Benediction and Mass.
St. Lawrence Parish, Indian-
thursdays
Thursdays
St. Michael Church. Information:
4 p.m. at 3354 W. 30th St.,
Rosary prayer group from 3 to
Pro-life rosary is recited at
Saturdays
Renewal of Central Indiana
the 7 p.m. Mass.
St. Joseph Hill Parish,
8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
St. Lawrence Parish, Indian-
Fridays
First Fridays
The archdiocesan Pro-Life
Office and St. Andrew Parish,
Service at the chapel in St.
Benediction and exposition of
the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30
p.m. 317-852-3195.
St. Patrick Parish, Sellersburg,
St. Roch Parish, St. Roch School, 3601 S.
3-4 p.m. from 308 Parkway Dr., Indianapolis.
Prayer group from 3 to
The Active List, continued from page 26
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by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., the pastor and parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
to celebrate
Christ’s coming in Christmas.
11:20 p.m.
Vigil service of scripture and song
Presider: Fr. Rick Ginther, pastor
12:00 a.m.
Midnight Mass
Presider: Archbishop Buechlein, O.S.B.
Supported Parking
SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral lot
(enter from North Pennsylvania Street)
The Catholic Center lot
(enter from West 14th Street)
News briefs

YMCA gives nation D grade for poor support of families

WASHINGTON (CNS)—YMCA of the USA has given the nation a grade of D for its poor support of U.S. families. At a Dec. 9 press conference in Washington, David R. Mercer, YMCA national executive officer, released the organization’s first “Nation’s Report Card: Assessing the Risk to the American Family.” Despite years of economic growth, said Mercer, “more and more Americans are facing an increasingly difficult task of providing for their families—not just economically, but in education, health and safety issues in a society with a shockingly high level of violence.”

Catholic Church pledges $500 million to rebuild Central America

MIAMI (CNS)—In a move larger in size and purpose than any other in its history, the Catholic Church’s global charities network has pledged a half-billion dollars to help rebuild the infrastructure of Central America and to reshape unjust social structures that network leaders say vastly increased the damage wrought by the hurricane. They envision no less than the creation of an entire region that promotes justice and dignity of the people, a project never before attempted by the Church. At a press conference Dec. 8 at the Archdiocese of Miami Pastoral Center, members of the Caritas network of Catholic relief agencies worldwide announced a long-term rehabilitation strategy that will contribute $500 million to the region over the next five years.

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(Golden Frontier is independent of Camp Oskoumak & the Diocese of Belleville.)

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World

Oceania Synod may have been ‘heavy cross’ for pope, says bishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Synod of Bishops for Oceania might have been a “heavy cross” for Pope John Paul II, said Bishop James Foley of Cairns, Australia. The 78-year-old pope “was faithfully there and attentively listening,” even when it seemed “physically painful” and when bishops were being critical of the Church and of the Vatican, Bishop Foley said. At the synod the pope “seemed to be a bit of a whine session,” with bishops mentioning everything that is going wrong in the Church, their region and their dioceses, he said.

Catholic observer to assembly says Church may join WCC someday

HARARE, Zimbabwe (CNS)—A Catholic observer to the World Council of Churches’ assembly in Harare said it was possible that the Catholic Church might one day join the WCC. The council is considering a “consensus” model of decision-making in a new structure that emphasizes participation in rather than membership in the world body. Paulist Father Thomas Strasny, an observer to the assembly, told journalists that times might have changed since 1972, when the Vatican decided not to seek membership in the council “in the immediate future.” The WCC has 332 member-churches in more than 100 countries.

Philippine bishops says rights commemoration ‘almost farcical’

MANILA, Philippines (CNS)—The Philippine bishops said seemingly endless violations of human rights make the commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights “almost farcical.” The bishops cited “a long litany of injustice against civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.” Despite significant progress toward restoring civil and political rights lost during martial law from 1972 to 1986, human rights violations remain a reality in many Filipinos’ lives.

Pope: Mary continues her cooperation with Holy Spirit

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Blessed Virgin Mary cooperated with the Holy Spirit in bringing Christ to birth on Earth, and she continues cooperating with the Holy Spirit in her maternal concern for all believers, Pope John Paul II said. “The consent she expressed at the Annunciation 2,000 years ago represents the point of departure for a new history of human dignity,” the pope said Dec. 9 at his weekly general audience. The pope said that when Christians deepen their devotion to Mary, they open the way for the Holy Spirit to work more powerfully in their lives.

Pope praises dedication of late Chilean cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope John Paul II praised the dedication of Chilean Cardinal Carlos Oviedo Cavada, who died Dec. 7 at age 71. In a telegram to Archbishop Francisco Javier Errazuriz Ossa of Santiago, Chile, the pope said Oviedo Cavada “served his people and the Church with much prudence and pastoral charity.” “His generous and intense ministerial work” were “testimony to a great dedication to the cause of the Gospel, at the same time giving proof of his deep love for the Church and of the qualities with which he was blessed,” the pope wrote in the telegram, released at the Vatican Dec. 9.

Man carves nativity sets in memory of daughter killed as child

HAZELHURST, Wis. (CNS)—Vern and Erma Reigel’s six adult children have a pretty good idea what they’ll be getting for Christmas each year: “There’s still just a bit of a surprise anticipation before the packages are opened. Four years ago Vern Reigel began carving intricate nativity sets for each of the children and their families, and every year they receive additional figures. His work is now almost complete, with just a few Wise Men and some angels still waiting to take shape. While he wanted to make something that would stay in the family for generations, he said that the nativity sets are also a way of remembering their daughter Rolinda, who was hit by a car when she was 6 years old.”

(These briefs were compiled from reports by Catholic News Service.)
Free gifts to the first 25 announcements received with a picture!

Parents/Grandparents!

Send us your daughter’s, son’s, or grandchild’s wedding announcement with a picture of the couple to be published free in The Criterion’s Feb. 5, 1999 wedding supplement!

To be published in the February 5, 1999, issue of The Criterion

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First Bridal Issue for 1999!

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If you are planning your wedding or have had your wedding between Feb. 1 and July 30, 1999, we invite you to submit the information for an announcement on the form to the right.

Photographs
You may send us a photo of the bride-to-be, a picture of the couple or a photo of the bride and groom. Please do not cut the photograph. The photo must be wallet-size and will be used as space permits. Black & white photos are preferred, we cannot guarantee the reproduction quality of a color photo. Please put name(s) and return address on the back. Photos will be returned if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

Deadline
All announcements with photos must be received by Wednesday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m. (No photos can be accepted after this date). All announcements without photos must be received by the same date.

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Use this form to furnish information

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Clip and mail to: BRIDES, The Criterion, ATTN: Susan Bierman, 1400 North Meridian, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Deadline with photos: Wednesday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m.

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☒ Photo Enclosed
☒ No Photo

Signature of person furnishing information
Relationship
Daytime Phone

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Below is an example of how your listing will appear in The Criterion.

Bedel - Calabrese
Susan Marie Bedel and Christopher Michael Calabrese will be married June 27 at St. Maurice, St. Maurice. The bride is the daughter of Robert and Janet L. Bedel. The groom is the son of Jeff and Rebecca Calabrese.

Bielski - Dubois
Catherine Elizabeth Bielski and John Charles Dubois will be married June 27 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carmel. The bride is the daughter of Leonard and Catherine Bielski. The groom is the son of Raymond and Suzanne Dubois.

Black - Hallal
Julie A. Black and Jared R. Hallal will be married on July 3 at Holy Family, New Albany. The bride is the daughter of the late Barbara Aemmer Black and Mr. Richard T. Black. The groom is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Eli R. Hallal.

Borde - Wheat
Christina Lynne Borse and Christopher John Wheat will be married on July 22 at St. Matthew, Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jim and Sally Borse. The groom is the son of Chris and Becky Wheat.
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Positions Available

Principal: Bethlehem High School, Bardstown, KY
Bethlehem High School, a coed Catholic high school of 300 students, seeks a principal embodying Catholic ideals, vision and leadership beginning 1999-2000 school year. Oldest school in the state. Serves several rural counties of central Kentucky with a dedicated staff of 15 professional, strong parental and community support. Ranked among top schools in the state in students pursuing and succeeding in college. A candidate must be a practicing Catholic and eligible for Gibault School for Boys certification. Inquiries and resumés should be submitted by February 1, 1999 to: Principal Search Committee, P.O. Box 548, Bardstown, Kentucky 40004.

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The Criterion, Friday, December 18, 1998 Page 31

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Positions Available

Principal: Bethlehem High School, Bardstown, KY
Bethlehem High School, a coed Catholic high school of 300 students, seeks a principal embodying Catholic ideals, vision and leadership beginning 1999-2000 school year. Oldest school in the state. Serves several rural counties of central Kentucky with a dedicated staff of 15 professional, strong parental and community support. Ranked among top schools in the state in students pursuing and succeeding in college. A candidate must be a practicing Catholic and eligible for Gibault School for Boys certification. Inquiries and resumés should be submitted by February 1, 1999 to: Principal Search Committee, P.O. Box 548, Bardstown, Kentucky 40004.

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