



A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL

Sunday, December 31st, celebrates **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**. This time of year family is most important and probably family members are the closest any time of the year. Today's feast celebrates and prays that the unity and love that we all long for we will find most emphatically in family life. We know that in family life Jesus himself “advanced in wisdom, age and favor before God and man.” The prayers of the Mass ask God to

help us “live as the holy family,” that we be “taught the sanctity of human love” and be shown “the value of family life.” Tonight, if you do not do so already, begin a family practice of parents praying a blessing over their children at nighttime prayer time; or offer a special prayer for blessings on your family members who are now on their own, away from your family life. Centered, faithful and caring family life is the core of church and society. There is much strength and wisdom from God that is available to be faithful to that mission; we just need to ask, receive and use what God gives in response to those prayers.

New Year's Day, tomorrow, honors **MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD, the GOD-BEARER**. This is an ancient title for Mary, and defined as a doctrine of faith in 431 (the Council of Ephesus). This feast is celebrated on the octave day of Christmas, the season that revels in the coming of the Word of God (Jesus), made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Aware at the beginning of the new civil year of God being with us in and through Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, we know we can continue our growth in being one with Him who is one with us. Through Him we have a deeper conviction that we can bring His healing, care, forgiveness, love and union with God to each other and to all people. We will pray hard and work hard to make this a year of peace! —*Father Ralph*



The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.)

R. C. I. A. will be offered weekly, beginning Thursday, February 8, at 7 pm in the Community Room. **The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** is a very spiritual, informational and easy-to-be-part-of presentation of faith, and the Catholic faith in particular. During the weekly sessions until Easter, we meet for conversation, questions, discussions and learning faith and the Catholic

faith. R.C.I.A. is set up for those who are seeking Baptism, or to become Catholic by Confirmation if they are already baptized in another Christian denomination; it is meant also for those who are not Catholic but married or planning marriage with a Catholic, and for Catholics who have questions about our faith or simply want to renew their knowledge of the Catholic religion. There is a small group interested already, but there is room for many more. Maybe this is a good New Year's resolution for yourself, or to offer to someone you know who might be interested. You would be an “apostle” for Jesus by such an invitation. Please reflect on this invitation, show up on February 8 at 7 pm or—best of all—call Father Goman at 952-935-5536 with your questions or registration. R.C.I.A. will make 2007 a happy New Year for you or someone you know.

Mass Intentions Week of December 31

Sat.	Dec. 30	5:00 pm	People of the Parish
Sun.	Dec. 31	10:00 am	†Joseph Hoffmann
		2:30 pm	People of the Community
		6:00 pm	†Herman Terhar
Mon.	Jan. 1	10:00 am	†Milan Remington
Tues.	Jan. 2	5:30 pm	Peace
Wed.	Jan. 3	10:00 am	Good Health
Thurs.	Jan. 4	5:30 pm	†Pat Maxwell
Fri.	Jan. 5	8:00 am	For a Safe Delivery & Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered
Sat.	Jan. 6	8:00 am	Maryann Nordaune
		5:00 pm	People of the Parish
Sun.	Jan. 7	10:00 am	†Joseph Hoffmann
Hispanic		2:30 pm	People of the Community
		6:00 pm	†Joseph Hoffmann

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Thursday:	1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
Friday:	1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

—1 John 3:2a



BELIEVE • ACHIEVE • BELONG

St. John's

CATHOLIC SCHOOL
HOPKINS

Dear Parishioners,

Although this is a difficult letter to write, I want to be the one to tell you that I will be leaving St. John's at the end of the school year. I have accepted the President position at St. Elizabeth Seton School in North Minneapolis. St. Elizabeth's school provides a Catholic education to the families of 5 parishes on the north side. The goal of the Archdiocese is that this school will become a larger regional school for the people in that area.

I grew up in a poor family. My parents valued Catholic education but could barely afford it. Had it not been for the Sisters of St. Benedict, who taught in the Catholic grade school in my home town, my life and the lives of my 6 brothers and sisters would have turned out very differently. It is my turn to give back to people with limited financial resources to ensure that they have the same quality of education for their children that you want for yours.

There will be time for good-byes in the spring. For now, I plan to continue to work hard to make St. John's the best school it can be for all of the families in Hopkins.

This decision required a great deal of prayer and soul searching on my part, but I felt called by God to respond when the offer came to me.

—Mona Faulkner

It is very difficult to accept the resignation of Mona Faulkner as Principal of our school. She worked with us from the time of the decision to dissolve the John Ireland School. It was then that parents from our area asked that St. John's School be started up again. She was an inspired facilitator helping us and me discern a decision. With confidence we determined we would do so because we could do so. Mona excited us all when she accepted the principal position three years ago, and has been a faithful and qualified principal, gathering a top-notch faculty to bring to reality the goals we set together of a quality, Catholic education. Her decision now is to serve the very real needs of another community seeking the goals we set together. She has drawn out the best of our parents, students and parishioners. I applaud her decision to continue using her skills and gifts in the north side community of parishes seeking what we search for and found beginning four years ago. And I assure you that our search for a new principal for the fall of 2007 will bring us another quality and faith-filled principal. "What we have begun in God's name, God will bring to a successful conclusion".—Father Ralph



Hopkins Catholic Youth Ministry

Robyn Magalska, Director

Youth Office Contact Information: 952-935-5536 ext. 6 or
robyn_magalska@yahoo.com .

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY YOUTH GATHERING ON DEC. 31ST.

10th Graders and Older

Sign up this week! All 10th graders and older (including adults), mark your calendars for **January 5th and 6th for our FIL Retreat!** FIL stands for Faith Impacts Life and this is a great opportunity to see how faith and fun collide! The retreat will begin on Friday at 7 pm and conclude on Saturday at 9 pm. We will have great discussions, great food, great games and great fellowship! Permission slips and Code of Conduct forms are required. The cost for the event is \$12. Contact the Youth Office if you are interested or if you have questions. If you want to participate, but you cannot attend the entire time, that is fine but you must give prior notification.

All 7th–12th Graders and Older

Join us on **Sunday, January 7th for Game Night**, Open Gym and an end-of-Christmas-break celebration! There will be cake, snacks, music, and fun. Bring your energy for Mushroom Ball, Lightening and more! Stop down to Leo's Den at St. John's from 7:15-8:30 pm for lots of fun and fellowship! Friends are welcome and no RSVP is necessary.

On **Sunday, January 14th** there will be a **service project opportunity**. We will be spending time preparing for our annual "Baby Shower" drive. Join us to pray for life issues and serve your community as well from 7:15–8:30 pm in Leo's Den at St. John's. Snacks will be provided. Contact the Youth Office for questions. All are welcome.

Outreach Opportunity

The Little Sisters of the Poor will be visiting our parish the weekend of Jan. 14, giving us the opportunity to share in their ministry to the elderly poor. They conduct the Holy Family Residence in St. Paul. Their financial support comes from the generosity of people like ourselves. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Catholic Charities Seton Services

Catholic Charities assists women and their partners at a time of an unplanned pregnancy in considering the best path for their future, and that of their child. A full range of services is available including counseling, prenatal and delivery and various approaches to adoption. Take a brochure from the kiosk, or for more info call 651-641-1180.

Information

Thanks, Thanks, Thanks

to our children, parishioners
and the Minnetonka Rotary
for their overwhelming response
to the mitten tree.

This project was sponsored
by the St. John's Catholic School,
kindergarten and 1st grade students.
Very generous donations were sent to:

Loaves and Fishes
Franciscan Brothers of Peace
Sharing and Caring Hands
Dorothy Day Center

Calendar



Monday, January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
SCHOOL CLOSED & ON WINTER BREAK
UNTIL JAN. 8

10:00 AM Mass for Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God—LD

7:30 PM AA—School Cafeteria

Tuesday, January 2

7:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting—CL

Wednesday, January 3

7:00 PM Winter Faith Formation Teacher's
Workshop—CR

Thursday, January 4

6:30 PM Ensemble Choir—CH

7:00 PM Hispanic Community Meeting—CR

Saturday, January 6

6:00 PM New Member Registration—CH

7:00 PM Hispanic Prayer Group—CH

Sunday, January 7 EPIPHANY

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK

11:00 AM New Member Registration—Foyer

6:00 PM New Member Registration—Foyer

7:00 PM Confirmation Class Gathers for Class—SCH

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

6 Interlachen Rd. Hopkins, MN 55347

Parish Office 952-935-5536 www.stjohnshopkins.org

School 952-935-5537 www.sjshopkins.org