



*All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to be.  
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.*

**November 2013**

## A Note From Fr. Jim



*To create and maintain a Christ-centered Catholic Community where our personal call to holiness, service and spiritual growth leads to continued authentic wit-*

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. And a few days following will be the First Sunday of Advent. (Happy New Year!)

If you subscribe to the *Solon Economist* or receive the *North Liberty Leader*, you have probably seen a new column on the editorial page called "Ministers' Musings." Every month one of the Solon pastors is submitting an article that might touch the hearts of the readers. It has been suggested that about 60% of Johnson County is "unchurched." Our hope is that these monthly articles might tap them on their shoulder to give the church a first or second try.

My article this month is about some of my family's Thanksgiving traditions. Most importantly about taking extra time around the dinner table for each to give thanks to God in a personal way.

I enjoy my monthly meeting with Pastor Scott Kober from the United Methodist Church and Pastor Dennis Arnold from Our Lord's Church. We recently have been meeting to discuss the creation of a "help fund" for our community.

We should have that in place by the beginning of the new year. It will be a way that we can work together to help those in our community with extra-ordinary and emergency needs.

On Sunday, November 24, the churches will be celebrating Thanksgiving together at the Solon Methodist Church. We cordially invite you to attend and bring a friend. Share a bowl of soup at 5:00 pm and join in prayer at 6:00 pm. The three churches are combining their choirs into one for the service. A free-will offering will be taken for the new "help fund."

Giving thanks to God for our blessings is so important. I know this year I will be thanking God for all of YOU! I feel very blessed to be part of a parish with faith-filled families who generously share their gifts.

May the Holy Spirit continue to bless and strengthen all of us as a community of faith, hope and love.

*Fr Jim*

**SOLO, IOWA**

**St. Mary Parish  
Newsletter**

1749 Racine Ave NE  
Solon, IA 52333  
319-624-2228  
www.solonstmary.org

***O Come, O Come Emmanuel!*** Advent, a Latin word for "coming" is the time we remember when Christ first came among us, continues to come among us, and will come again at the end of time. This Advent—use the center of this newsletter to let Christ come into your life in a more profound way through prayer, scripture, Mass and Reconciliation. ***Emmanuel—"God With Us"***



**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall Come to You**

**Christmas Eve Masses: 5:00pm and 10:00pm**

**Christmas Day Mass: 9:00am**



# HARVEST FESTIVAL APPRECIATION!

A special **THANK YOU** to everyone who made this year's Fall Harvest Festival such a huge success!



For all who helped set up the hall, decorated, donated food items, Bidding Barn and Country Store items, volunteered with children's games and bean bag tournament, helped with the meal in the kitchen and dining room, took tickets and took down and cleaned up at the end of the Festival, you were great and it certainly would not have happened without such wonderful help from Saint Mary parishioners.

We thank so many people for attending the Festival and enjoying the delicious meal and activities.

Mary Ann Kral of Iowa City won the Hawkeye Suite; the Schwartz family from our parish won the \$500.00; and Blake Newell, also from our parish, won the \$250.00. The total proceeds from the Harvest Festival was \$22,864.06. This will help pay down the loan for the Retreat Center.



Thanks to the Planning Committee for months of preparation: Joyce Barta: coordinator and raffle; Brenda Platz: music and decorations; Chris Newell: Children's activities and Silver Cord Hours; Janet Lowenberg: delicious dinner; Judy Meier: Country Store; Julie Agne: promotion graphics; Lori McKinnie: advertising; Marianne Harney: desserts and Helping Hands rep; Mark Roskopf: tickets, games, and "go to" man; Pat Zimmerman: Bidding Barn; Fred Zimmerman: Bouncy House and official "handy-man"; Terry Rasmussen: Knights of Columbus rep, 50/50, advance donations, and "go to" man; and Mary Hadenfeldt: BeanBag Tournament.



*Grand Prize winners of the Raffle: Dave & Mary Ann Krall Family at the Hawkeye Game on their 52 Anniversary!*



# Harvest Festival

SAVE THE 2014 DATE  
September 21

# Our Parish Family

## Baptisms *We welcome with great joy!*

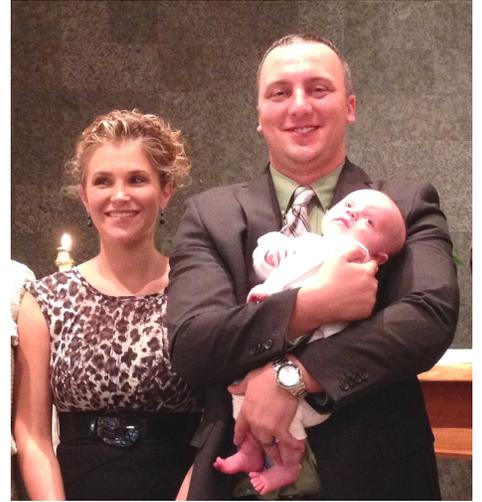
**Mya**, Travis and Erin Schmelzer



**Max**, Andrew and Jessica Wulfekuhle



**Ryker**, Travis and Kristen Schmidt



## New Parishioners *We're glad you're here!*

Robert and Jade Lovstuen

Carol Ketchum

Joe and Carly Slattery

John and Michele McErlane

David and Andrea Carter

Benjamin Plotz

Joshua and Michelle Root

Brandon and Abigail Hove

Nicholas and Salina Hermann

Katrina Postel

Nathaniel and Bridget Johnson

Christine Cave

Daniel and Joan Burnhardt

Heather Yeggy

Alan and Stephanie Wieskamp

Cody and Jessica Kelley

## Weddings *Congratulations!*

Christopher Robertson & Kelly Wood Sept 28

Mitch Olson & Brittany Danielson Oct 4

Andrew Roder and Kiley Greene Oct 12

Ryne Brimeyer & Kaitlyn Breza Nov 9

## Deaths *We pray and remember*

Marjorie Zeman

Eileen Beranek

Patrick Guard

## Neighborhood Picnic



**By Roy & Deb Gaddis**

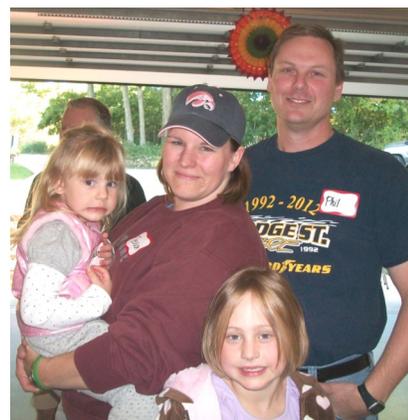
For an inaugural event, everything came together well. Scheduling an outdoor picnic in October can be a bit scary weather-wise. But, we were blessed with a beautiful fall afternoon.

Surprisingly, there are 42 parish families living within a radius of under 2 miles from our home. Even with short notice, about 30 people were able to join in. The picnic gave everyone a casual opportunity to chat with our familiar neighbors and get to know others that we had not previously met.

More picnics are in the plans for next year. When you get the call, be sure to make an effort to attend. You will enjoy renewing friendships and developing new ones.



*To host a neighborhood parish picnic in 2014 Contact Patty Benzing at 624-2228*



*"The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the Gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the home of the Christian community; they are the heart of our Church. Parishes are the place where God's people meet Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church's life. —Communities of Salt and Light, p. 1 United States Bishop Conference*

# Family Fall Walk

St. Mary's first annual Fall Walk was held on Saturday, October 12 at MaBride Nature & Recreation Area. About 10 families joined us for a short hike on the trails followed by snacks, drinks and fellowship



## For Our Younger Parishioners...

For more information on these activities contact Lindsey Carey at [Lindsey@solonstmary.org](mailto:Lindsey@solonstmary.org) or 319-400-2484

### Mom's Group

*Join Us Now!*



**Fridays at 10:00am**

The Mom's Group meets every Friday morning at 10:00.

We usually meet in the parish hall nursery but at times will go to parks or indoor play areas. If you and your children are interested in joining us, please contact Lindsey Carey so you can get details from week to week.

### St. Mary Sunday Preschool Program

*Beginning in January*



**For 4-5 year olds who will start Kindergarten in Fall of 2014**

There will be arts and crafts, storytelling and gaining a basic understanding of who Jesus is. Classes will be twice a month beginning **January 12, 2014 during 10:30** Mass followed by a closing prayer with the entire family after Mass.

### Family Game Night

*Save the Date*



**Saturday, January 18, 2014**

**Game Night with Potluck**

**6:00-9:00pm**

This will be St. Mary's next social gathering for young families. Bring your favorite potluck dish, game, adult/kids beverages (lemonade/water provided) and join us for a night of fun playing games/cards.

We will have middle school students available to help play with the children/watch movies with them so the adults can enjoy playing cards/games and fellowship.



Check out Saint Mary Solon  
Young Families Facebook

# Knights of Columbus Golf Benefit

Solon St. Mary Knights of Columbus, Lake MacBride Golf Club, Billion Automotive and Chick-fil-A sponsored a Four Person Best Shot on Saturday, September 28.

The proceeds from the Golf Benefit, along with a silent auction following the tournament, were for Solon kindergartner Alyson Bulechek's increasing medical bills for her fight against Kleefstra Syndrome and Apraxia. **By the end of the day, \$14,115 was raised.**



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Alyson Bulechek



Deacon David Krob blesses the 88 golfers at the start of the tournament.



# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

# RCIA

## Christian Formation Process

*Who have you invited to consider the Catholic Faith? All Baptized are called bring others to the Good News of Jesus.*

*Every year, in parishes across the country and throughout the world, candidates for the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation and Eucharist) prepare to become members of the Catholic Church. Their process of conversion, discernment, preparation and formation is guided by the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).*

***Those discerning and preparing to enter the Church depend on the support and encouragement of the whole Church, not only to welcome them, but also to join with them in following Christ.***

*At the same time, they enrich the Church by their example of openness to God's grace and the promptings of the Holy Spirit as they respond to the invitation of Jesus. Msgr. Richard Hilgartner*



**Kristin Nearad & Joan Burnhardt**



**Josh Lyons & Mark Sovers**



**Ben Bakeris, Theresa Smith & Kari Bakeris**



**Dennis Uhl & Jordan Clemsen**



**Steve Cross & Bill Wirth**



**Dewayne Olney & Terry Rasmussen**



**Teri Kerkhoff & Jessica Wulfekuhle**



**Theresa Bonnema & Lisa Pfanne-**



**Mary Knight & Karissa Whitman**



**Matt Ruzicka & Julie Uhlenkamp**

## *Pray for Our Candidates*

Lord,  
 We pray for all those who journey to you.  
 Strengthen their faith.  
 Ease their fears and doubts.  
 Open their hearts to  
 the fullness of your love.  
 Deepen their understanding  
 of your plan for their life.  
 Set their hearts afire  
 for the building of your Kingdom.  
 Let our prayers of thanksgiving and support  
 be a sign of our love for them.  
 As we continue to seek your plan for our lives  
 let our witness of bringing your way, truth,  
 and life into our family, parish, and  
 community encourage their yes to you.  
 We ask this through Jesus,  
 who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life  
 for all. Amen

# This Advent

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season, let us strive to keep Advent a season of waiting and longing, of conversion and hope, meditating often on the incredible love and humility of our God in taking on flesh of the Virgin Mary. In our shopping and baking, let us remember to purchase and prepare something for the poor. When we clean our homes, let us distribute some of our possessions to those who lack many necessities. While we are decking the halls of our homes, **let us not forget to prepare a peaceful place in our hearts wherein our Savior may come to dwell.**

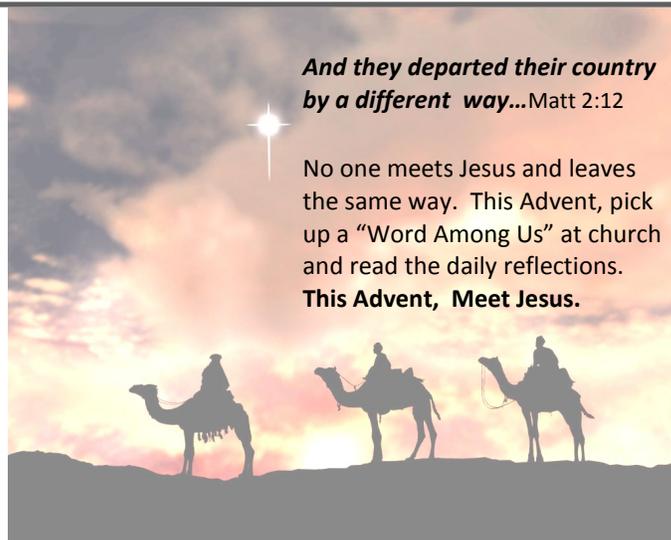
[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

**This Advent and Christmas Season** — who will you introduce to the Christ child? Who will you pray for? Who will you invite to join you for reconciliation or Christmas Mass? Who will you visit and bring words of hope and comfort? In this time of shortened daylight,

***And they departed their country by a different way...Matt 2:12***

No one meets Jesus and leaves the same way. This Advent, pick up a "Word Among Us" at church and read the daily reflections.

**This Advent, Meet Jesus.**



## Feast of Christ the King, Nov 24 — last Sunday of the Liturgical Year



The Roman Catholic Church instituted this feast of Christ the King in 1925, during bleak days, when fascist and communist clouds were darkening the earth with their ominous shadow. It was an antidote to secularism, a way of life which leaves God out of man's thinking and living and organizes his life as if God did not exist. From the dawn of civilization, kings have arisen who have dreamed of possessing a world-wide dominion, a universal kingdom that would last forever. Some have come close to conquering much of the known world—Alexander, Genghis Khan, Augustus Caesar, and Adolf Hitler, to name a few. But despite all their machinations, pretensions, and self-glorifying monuments, the great rulers of the earth all proved mortal like anybody else. The feast serves as a reminder to us that we know the end of the story and should not be fooled by the braggarts who strut and the bullies who gloat. They'll be gone soon. And He'll be here soon. How soon no one knows.

*Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio* [www.crossroadsinitiative.com](http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com)

## Knights of Columbus Relics Visit **Friday, Nov. 29 – St Patrick, Iowa City**



Mexico is a nation with a very strong Catholic identity, yet for over 70 years during the 20th century the Catholic Church was actually outlawed: not allowed to own property, run schools, convents or monasteries, have more than a certain number of priests (and no foreign priests), nor defend itself publicly or in the courts. It was hardly allowed to exist. Public worship was a crime for three years (1926-1929), they lived through violent persecution, in which priests and laypeople were ordered to renounce Christ in public. To refuse to do so meant facing not only punishment, but even torture and death. Thousands of Mexican Catholics gave witness to their faith or fought to defend it. In many cases, they paid for it with their lives. According to historian Jim Tuck, ***"This was not separation of church and state: it was complete subordination of church to state"***.

**Holy Hour begins 6:00 pm  
Mass follows at 7:00**

Six priest martyrs of Mexico – canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000- died for their faith at the hands of the Mexican government during the religious persecution in Mexico in the early 20th century.

*"It is our hope that the pilgrimage of these relics will remind us all of the sacrifices made on behalf of religious liberty on this continent less than 100 years ago." "It is a timely reminder that, from ancient Rome to 1920s Mexico to today, persecution does not stifle the faith, but emboldens it."* Supreme Knight of Columbus Carl Anderson.



## December 1

*Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation*

### 1st Sunday of Advent Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples:

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

**And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.**

But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life,

and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.

For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth.

Be vigilant at all times

and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

### Christ Comes In Majesty

*Christ will come again in glory—that is an essential part of our faith. Advent is a great time to reflect on that, to remember it, and to prepare for it. Everything here in life, as wonderful as it is, is only a hint of what awaits us when Christ comes in majesty at the end of time.*

*Nothing is permanent here. We can begin thinking about our eternity by making choices on what is going to have the best "eternal" consequences for us. It is a spiritual practice we can continue the rest of year.*

Ask:

† Is this going to help or hurt me getting to heaven?

† Is this going to assist or hurt my salvation?

† How will this appear when Christ returns in majesty to be the judge of the living and the dead?

*When Christ first came in history, he came as a helpless baby. When he comes in majesty, he's going to come as the Omnipotent Judge.*



## December 8

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all flesh shall see the salvation of God*

### 2nd Sunday of Advent Matthew 3:1-2

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: *A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.*

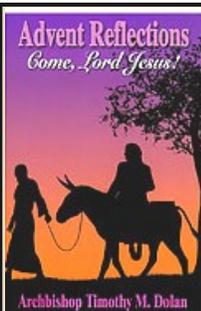
John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, **but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals.** He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

### Christ Came in History

*The faithful people of Israel waited so eagerly and so long for the coming of the Messiah. That's why we hear words such as "yearning," "hoping," "longing," and "preparing," throughout this holy season. During Advent, we can assume the posture of the expectant people of Israel and admit that we have a very real need for a savior.*

*Now it might sound easy to make the admission that we need a Savior, but in reality it's tough because most of us are sort of proud and feel rather self-sufficient, independent—in other words, we feel we're able to take care of ourselves. We hardly need a savior. Yet if we are really honest, we'll admit there are certain things we just can't fix.*



Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

*Excerpts taken from Cardinal Timothy Dolan's book, "Come, Lord Jesus."*

**Advent means "coming." During the Season of Advent we contemplate the three comings of Christ:**

The first coming of Our Lord is the one we celebrate every Christmas—when he came to us in the past, in **history**.

He comes to us now, every day, in **mystery**—as in prayer, grace, word, and sacrament.

Christ will come at the end of time, in **majesty**, to judge the living and the dead.

*Reflect on each of the three comings of Christ this Advent Season*



Mary belonged to a people who were waiting with heartfelt expectation for the Savior's coming. We can imagine the Virgin's apprehension when the Archangel Gabriel entered her house. Mary, with a tremendous act of faith, said "yes": "I am the servant of the Lord." And so it was that she became the "dwelling place" of the Lord and a "door" through which the Lord entered upon earth.

**Christ also seeks a living dwelling place in our personal lives.** Let us once again learn this in the season of Advent: The Lord comes among us. Since the first coming of Christ is at the center of the history of humanity and at its end, his glorious return, so every person is called to be measured against him during their earthly pilgrimage, in order to be found "in him" at the moment of his return.

*May Mary Most Holy, the faithful Virgin, guide us to make this time of Advent a path of genuine sanctification, to the praise and glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

**Pope Benedict XVI**



## December 15

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor*

### 3rd Sunday of Advent Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply,

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: **the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.**"

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.*

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

### Christ Comes in Mystery

*The great tragedy of that first Christmas was that his birth went largely unnoticed. The world passed him by. The world ignored him, so much so that he was actually born in a manger, in a stable. You know what? That's not a tragedy in history. That tragedy continues now, because Christ comes to us in mystery every day and we usually miss him!*

*One of the reasons for this is that Christ comes to us in a very soft, gentle, unassuming, and everyday kind of way. He comes in a prayer whispered or a smile exchanged. He comes in bread and wine changed into His very body and blood at Mass. He comes in His Word in the Scripture. He comes in the cry of a baby and the countless other helpless individuals who cry out for help. He comes in those sacred words of absolution. He comes in forgiveness exchanged and second chance given. He comes in the waters of Baptism and vows exchanged in marriage. He comes in an imperfect Church in a struggling world.*



## December 22

*The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*

### 4th Sunday of Advent Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ***Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."***

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

### Watch for His Coming

*They missed Him at Bethlehem. They ignored Him at Nazareth. They chased him away in Galilee. They put Him to death in Jerusalem—and we do, too. Remember when the angels sang out, "For to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"*

*Well, my dear friends in Christ today and every day is born a Savior, and he is Christ the Lord. "Boy, wouldn't it be great if Christmas could continue all year?," we say. Well it does—because every moment, every day, Christ can be reborn in our hearts.*

*The problem is not that Christ is not coming. The challenge is that we don't recognize Him because we've been desensitized to His arrival, to His Advent, to His coming in our lives. Advent is an opportunity to re-sensitize our faith so that we're able to sense His coming in the very plain, ordinary ways of life and in the mysteries of our faith. Watch for his coming and recognize and welcome him with faith. Trust in your savior.*



*Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!* In the *Creed*, every Sunday, we state: “I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins”. Indeed, Baptism is the “door” of faith and of Christian life.

strong, with the strength that Christ gave you by his death and his Resurrection? Or feel low, without strength? Baptism gives strength and it gives light. Do you feel enlightened, with that light that comes from Christ? Are you a man or woman of light? Or are you a dark person, without the light of Jesus? We need to take the grace of Baptism, which is a gift, and become a light for all people!

This is your homework: find out the day on which you were born to the Church, and give thanks to the Lord, because at Baptism he has opened the door of his Church to us. At the same time, Baptism is tied to our faith in the remission of sins. The Sacrament of Penance or Confession is, in fact, like a “second baptism” that refers back always to the first to strengthen and renew it. Confession is not a matter of sitting down in a torture chamber, rather it is a celebration. Confession is for the baptized! To keep clean the white garment of our Christian dignity!

In the Sacrament of Baptism all sins are remitted, original sin and all of our personal sins, as well as the suffering of sin. This saving intervention does not take away our human nature and its weakness — we are all weak and we are all sinners — and it does not take from us our responsibility to ask for forgiveness every time we err!

We can ask ourselves: is Baptism, for me, a fact of the past, relegated to a date or is it a living reality, that pertains to my present, to every moment? Do you feel

The Lord Jesus is very, very good and never tires of forgiving us. Even when the door that Baptism opens to us in order to enter the Church is a little closed, due to our weaknesses and our sins. Confession reopens it, precisely because it is a second Baptism that forgives us of everything and illuminates us to go forward with the light of the Lord. Let us go forward in this way, joyfully, because life should be lived with the joy of Jesus Christ; and this is a grace of the Lord.

## Communal Reconciliations:

Wednesday Dec. 4— 7:00pm St. Mary Riverside

Thursday, Dec. 5—9:00pm Newman Center IC

**Sunday, Dec. 8 – 2:00 St. Mary-Solon**

Saturday, Dec. 14—10:00am St. Mary Iowa City

Sunday, Dec. 15— 2:00pm St. Patrick Iowa City

Monday, Dec. 16— 7:00pm St. Thomas Coralville

Tuesday, Dec 17— 7:00pm St. Wenceslaus IC

Sunday, Dec. 22—2:00 St. James Washington



*“...through Baptism the human person becomes filled with the grace of Christ, “the true light that enlightens every man” and dispels the shadows of sin. That is why in the ceremony of Baptism the parents are given a lit candle, to signify this illumination; Baptism illuminates us from within with the light of Jesus.*

*In virtue of this gift the baptized are called to become themselves “light” the light of the faith they have received, for their brothers, especially for those who are in darkness and see no glimmer of light on the horizon of their lives.”* Pope Francis



## The Immaculate Conception Mass—Monday, Dec. 9 at 5:30pm

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception states that “The Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin.” Mary the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States with this title, declared so officially by the first Council of Baltimore in 1846.



The patronal church of the United States is the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, dedicated to the patroness

of the United States and located in Washington, DC. It is the largest Roman Catholic church in North America.

# Ministry Fair—November 16 & 17



Please remember to fill out the **Time & Talent Commitment Form** that was mailed to you two weeks ago. There are many opportunities for you to join in the work of our church. Drop your form off in the office or place it in the offertory. **THANK YOU** to those who have filled them out already!

## As Good Stewards, we believe all we have comes from God, so we....

...prayerfully discern the talents God has given us, asking God "How should I share these to build up your Kingdom?"

...seek the needs of parish and our community; actively **LOOK** for opportunities to serve.

...recognize our dependence on God and trust that he will provide at all times.

...are conscious of how we spend our time, making sure our priorities are in line with a true disciple of Christ.

...set aside time daily to pray and grow in our relationship with Christ.

...make a commitment to give to church & charity a portion of the financial resources God has given us

...participate in adult faith formation classes, bible studies, discussion groups ...and other opportunities to grow in our faith.

....selflessly give of our selves



## Pope Francis

### Challenges Catholics to Shun Materialism

Pope Francis continues to caution the faithful against the danger of losing their personal identity to materialism. "Whenever material things, money, worldliness, become the center of our lives, they take hold of us, they possess us; we lose our very identity as human beings." Christians must be on guard against "the danger of complacency, comfort, worldliness in our lifestyles and in our hearts, of making our well-being the most important thing in our lives." When materialism takes over, we "end up becoming self-absorbed and finding security in material things which ultimately rob us of our face, our human face."

"Possessions, money and monetary power can give a momentary thrill, the illusion of being happy, but they end up possessing us and making us always want to have more,"

Pope Francis told the World Youth Day

Crowd

Then Jesus said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions.... one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God."

Therefore I tell you, **do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing.** Luke 12:15-16, 21-22



**Materialism** (noun) tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort more important than spiritual values.

## Ministry Fair—Tree of Thanksgiving



In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians

## Teach Your Kids— it's not all about me.

Pope John Paul repeatedly shared that we will never discover our true selves until we make a gift of ourselves to others.

Life is a gift—how do we respond to this gift we've been given? Do we share our appreciation with God for all that has given to us? Do we thank God for each new day and ask him to show us how we can build his kingdom? To whom we can be his messengers of joy, hope and love?

Teach your kids to be aware of the many things God has blessed them with and to live in humble gratitude by responding to God and others in kind.

## Joshua Root

My wife Michelle and I have four children and the youngest will be baptized here soon. We live 25 minutes away, but have grown very fond of the church community here in Solon. I am a recent convert to Catholicism, Methodist my whole life until going through the RCIA program last year with Father Jim.

I was very apprehensive to take on this talk as I do not necessarily consider myself to be a competent steward for God. That being said, I hope to take this on as a reminder to myself and share with you a desire to help our communities and world more with some of the skills that we have been blessed with.

Let's be honest with ourselves and zoom in on the proportionate giving of our time. I think we fear the loss of time from our lives and that we might get stuck being the person that takes care of the same tasks over and over for years to come. With four young children, I would be lying if I said this has not somewhat intimidated me to serve in roles within the church and connected organizations. So we all need to be realistic about what time we can give, but if we ALL begin to give a realistic portion of our time, wouldn't there be so much less needed from each individual?

Growing up a Protestant, I had reservations about Catholicism. Maybe not distrust, but serious concerns that time spent on traditions and revelry could have been better spent serving God's most needy children. What changed my mind was real life stewards giving their time and resources to the needy, ill, and underprivileged in every aspect of life. THAT is what reaches to non-Catholics, even non-believers. Any religion can obey and attend, but action, donation, and sacrifice is what exemplifies a belief, a passion, and a love of Who they believe in.

*There are so many opportunities within the Church and Catholic & non-Catholic charities that I hope to and hope you can quit looking at it as a deterrent to our family time, but rather as an opportunity for all of our family to serve together and make a difference together and solidify our faith system as a family and hopefully bring some relief, compassion, and happiness to the lives of those who desperately need it and deserve it.*

If all in this Parish can get involved, imagine how light the load can be and the changes that can occur. If we can change a community at a time, with this community serving as an example, how quickly can it grow, town by town, state by state, country by country?

***Stewardship is a response we make in gratitude to God for what has been given to us. It is an intentional, planned, and proportionate giving of our time, talent, and treasure.***

## Janelle Patrick

My husband, Curtis, and I have 4 children. Our oldest will be 18 in December, our youngest is 22 months. We have been members here for two years, after moving from Minnesota for my husband's job.

When I was asked to give a talk, I said "I can do that!" When I sat down to write it, I thought "Who am I to give a talk in church?" Although raised in a strong Catholic family, for many years I had been a fair-weather friend of the church. We attended Easter and Christmas, of course. And a few Sundays here and there but we were going through the motions. When we came to look at Solon, one of the first things we saw was St. Mary's. I told the kids, "Look. There's the Catholic Church. When grandma asks, tell her it's called St. Mary's." Little did I know how important that first sighting would be.

We moved in August 2011 and Andrew was welcomed into our family in December. I received a call from Denise Miller with Meals for Moms. You're telling me 4 total strangers want to bring my family a meal? I thought this was the best thing I'd heard in a very long time. I even called my friends back in MN and said "You are NEVER going to believe what our church does!"

The following summer, there was a little blurb in the bulletin about a co-coordinator for the Meals for Moms program. After reading it two more Sundays, something went: "Hello?" I am fairly organized (try to be) and love to work with people so it couldn't hurt to volunteer. After a few months, I was asked to become coordinator of

the program as life had gotten hectic for our other volunteer. Our families are always so appreciative of the generosity of someone giving of their time to bring them a meal and make their lives a little bit easier.

Fall 2012 rolled and I was asked if I could help in the nursery on Wednesday nights during Faith Formation. I needed to stay in town anyway so I certainly didn't mind playing with the kids for an hour. In May of 2013, I was asked to become the nursery director. I happen to have a teaching degree with an Early Childhood minor so it was right up my alley. When I said St. Mary's was a very important first sighting, I could never have guessed what a gift it would be to simply give of the talents I already had. Talking to families that just had a baby? No problem. Coordinating an on-line schedule to arrange meals? No problem. Playing with kids? Again--no problem.

*All these things that were "No problem" are not only something I love doing; they are so appreciated by the people who benefit from the ministries. All my "no problems" have brought me back to God and the church. I have found a great place and wonderful, caring people here at St. Mary's.*

We've been asked to fill out a Time and Talent survey. My talents include organization, working with people and kids. A picture I saw recently is based on part of Ephesians Chapter 2. It says: "Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God." Prayerfully consider your talents and give your gift back to God.

## Jeff Geistkemper

My wife Cheryl and I have been married for 18 wonderful years; we have two kids Lauren a sophomore and Ryan a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. We have been members at St. Marys for the last 12 years.

When asked to give this talk, I thought back to some of the first things we did here when we first moved to Solon. When our kids were 3 and 5 years old, we volunteered to help clean the old St Mary's Auditorium at the end of summer before kids started Catechism. We were met with a smile; I wasn't sure if that was a good thing or if they were just relieved to have more help. Buckets of soap and rags were handed to us to start washing windows, desks and anything else that collected dirt and cob webs over the summer. I remember Father Wilkening in his white short sleeve shirt going a 100MPH. After it was done we felt a sense of accomplishment. We continued cleaning it for several years and as much as we didn't want to admit it, we all kind of enjoyed that time. We knew it was important to help our Church teach and bring our Parish closer to God.

The year we decided to build the new parish hall one of my kids came to me with a serious look and asked, "dad does this mean we don't get to clean the Auditorium anymore?" Well I reluctantly said "yes I guess it does."

*The fact is my kids taught me something that day. They knew at their young age that we were doing something good, but more importantly we were doing God's will. Mother Theresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."*

One other story I would like to share is how by getting involved with our parish, great things do, and will happen. I taught Catechism for a few years and as you teach the kids you get to know them on a personal level. As the school year was ending, we had a dilemma like many families: daycare for the summer. We needed to find someone we could trust. We decided to ask a family of one of the kids I taught. They agreed their daughter could babysit, and if needed the son would fill in. Our kids had the time of their life that summer and the next several. More importantly our kids experienced a family which held our beliefs and showed our kids great love. I truly believe that as you get involved with God's plan he gives back in ways we may not always expect.

Think about how you and or your family can make that little difference. Start saying yes to the little things in life and great things will happen. God Bless. Lastly I would like to add my favorite saying by St Francis " go out and spread the Gospel and if you have to use words.

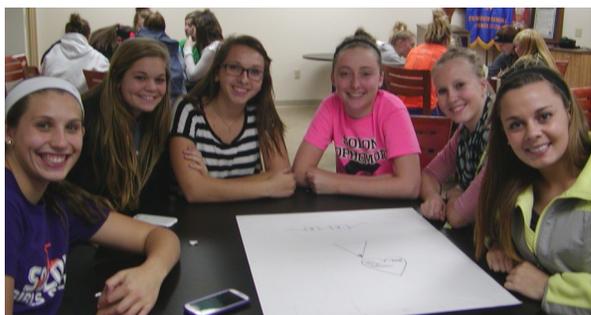
## Youth & Young Adult Choir & Ensemble



"God has bestowed upon his people the gift of song. God dwells within each human person, in the place where music takes its source. Indeed, God, the giver of song, is present whenever **HIS PEOPLE** sing **HIS PRAISES.**" -USCCB

**Join in singing praises to God!** The Youth and Young Adult Choir and Ensemble is a wonderful and joyous opportunity to use your musical gifts to praise God. If you play an instrument or love to sing, please contact **Chuck Brock** at [319 383-4312](tel:3193834312) or by email at [cabrockfam4@gmail.com](mailto:cabrockfam4@gmail.com) for more information getting involved.

*"A cry from deep within our being, music is a way for God to lead us to the realm of higher things. As St. Augustine says, "Singing is for the one who loves." Music is therefore a sign of God's love for us and of our love for him. In this sense, it is very personal. But unless music sounds, it is not music, and whenever it sounds, it is accessible to others. By its very nature song has both an individual and a communal dimension. Thus, it is no wonder that singing together in church expresses so well the sacramental presence of God to his people."* -USCCB



**Youth Ministry News** Mary's Youth Group has started off with a strong kick this year. We meet weekly on Wednesday at 6:30 in the Knights of Columbus room. If you haven't already joined us, come enjoy a warm meal, fellowship, prayer, and fun with other young people interested in exploring their faith.

Saint Mary's has recently joined the Lifeteen International Youth Ministry Program. As a Eucharist-centered movement within the Roman Catholic Church, Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. This winter students will be participating and leading in the CORE program. The purpose of this group is to provide opportunities for

teen leadership, go deeper into exploring the gospel, and to plan events for the Youth Group. This group meets throughout the year.

**SUMMER SERVICE TRIP August 2-8, 2014** Glenmary Farms in Vanceburg, Kentucky (current 9-12th grade)

**SUMMER STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCE July 25-27** University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota (current 8-12th grade)



[www.facebook.com/nickatsaintmary](http://www.facebook.com/nickatsaintmary)

[twitter.com/satt\\_xhs](https://twitter.com/satt_xhs)

# Parish Nurse



## St. Mary's Loan Closet

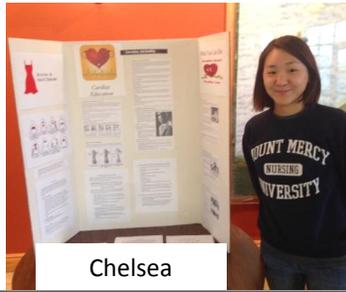
is a collection of medical equipment that includes: wheel chairs, bath chairs, walkers, canes, crutches, and a commodes. The equipment is available upon request and with no charge

Please call Nancy Upmeyer, 331-1553 if you have a need. She accepts donations at any time.

A special thanks to Terryn, Aneece, and Chelsea who assisted with the last Blood Pressure Clinic, Griefshare, and home visits for their Parish Nurse clinical experience through Mount Mercy University.



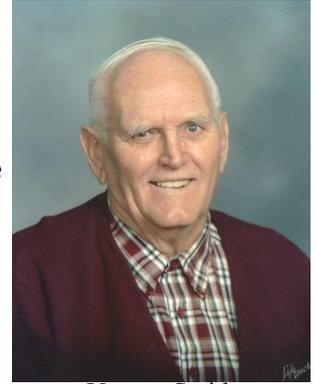
Terryn and Chelsea



Chelsea

## Vernon's Valet

is a program that is going to start the first snowy weekend we have Mass. We will assist parishioners out of their vehicles while another parks the vehicle. We will leave your keys in a marked envelope and then after Mass, get your car for you and assist you back into your vehicle. For valet service during snowy weather, drive up to the church's front entrance.



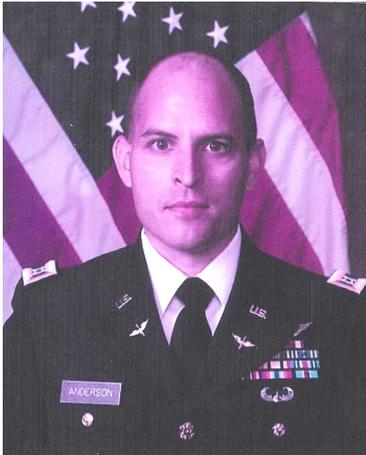
Vernon Smith

We hope to have 2 drivers and 2 assistants at each Mass, who can get the person inside the church safely.

**Please contact Nancy (331-1553) or Sandy (930-0209) if you can offer help with this service.**

Vernon's Valet is dedicated to Vernon Smith who commented to his family he wished that he could have a valet service at church like they do at the casino. His niece Sandy and I agreed it was the right thing to do to help others and honor his wish and memory.

## Dear Lord, Protect our Troops as They Protect Us.



MAJ Richard Anderson  
181C Barry Road  
West Point, NY 10996  
*(son of Joan Anderson)*



William Henk  
Army task force 3-10  
*(son of John and Mary Henk)*



MAJORS Karri (Hirl) and Todd Roman  
*(daughter & son-in-law of Steve and Kathy Hirl)*  
59th Joint Base Medical Unit



Senior Airman Alexander Virnden  
BDE JTAC  
FOB Gamberi APO AE



God of compassion, we pray for military personnel, offered for the sake of others, and separated from family and loved ones. Care for them; meet their needs. Grant them courage, compassion, strength, and all they need for the living of these days. Sustain them through their every trial. Remind them of the humanity they share even with those who are called "the enemy;" through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

We are updating our military board with ALL our service men and women from the Solon community and need assistance with names and photos

If you have a family member who is in the military, whether active, reserve or National Guard, **please submit the following:** Their names, rank, branch of the military, unit they are with, where they are serving (address) and their parents names (if applicable).

The information can be sent to the Church or  
**Nancy nancyupmeyer@hotmail.com**  
**Kathy khirl@southslope.net**



SeniSgt. Natalya Virden  
IONA Army Natl Guard  
JFHQ Des Moines, IA  
*(son of Glen & Tonja Wine-)*

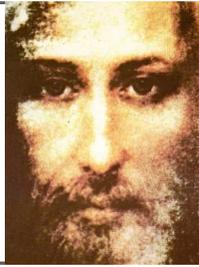


Look for military display in Gathering Space for addresses of area service men and women

# December

This Advent rediscover Christ, his message & his mother, Mary.

Escape from the winter cold and darkness and join us for three evenings to watch inspiring videos from the CATHOLICISM Series



**Wed. Dec 4**  
6:30 in Church

**Who do people say I am?**  
Jesus compels a choice like no other reli-



gious founder  
**Wed. Dec 11**  
6:30 in Church

**Happy are we.** The teachings of Jesus—risk



taking the path of love

**Wed. Dec 18**  
6:30 in Church

**Mary, the Mother of God.** Our



## Giving Tree

Pick a gift tag, for residents of the Solon Care Center, from the Giving Tree beginning the weekend of Dec. 1 and return gift by December 15



## Cookie Walk

**Sunday, Dec 8** following the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses in the parish hall. Come purchase homemade cookies for the holidays, while kids make crafts.



## Decorate for Christmas

**Sunday, Dec 22** following the 10:30 Mas.

Pizza and refreshments provided. Bring the family and your Christmas spirit. Join your parish family as we decorate in preparation for the celebration of

# January 2014

IMAGINE YOURSELF  
**DEBT FREE**



Do you find yourself living paycheck to paycheck? Are you and your spouse frequently arguing about money? Do you wish you could give back to your

church or other charities more often? Have you ever dreamed of being debt free but don't think it's possible?

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions then Financial Peace University is for you! This 9 week class combines a one hour DVD session with 30 minutes of class discussion to get you started on the path to handling money the way God intended us to handle it. You will learn seven baby steps that will give you hope and help you to become debt free, build wealth and give back. The next class will begin Sunday, January 12, 2014 from 6:00-7:30 pm. Childcare will be provided.



Attention Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers: St. Mary's will be offering Dave Ramsey's Generation Change to teach the basics of managing your money. It is a 9 week class that combines a one hour DVD session with 30 minutes of class discussion. Bring your friends and learn how you can start out your adult life without going into debt.

Generation Change will be held simultaneously with Financial Peace University beginning on Sunday, January 12, 2014 from 6:00-7:30 pm. Parents can join us at Financial Peace while their teens attend Generation Change so the whole family can learn very valuable financial tools.

Contact Lindsey Carey at [Lindsey@solonstmary.org](mailto:Lindsey@solonstmary.org) or 319-400-2484 for more details or to signed up.

## 2014—SAVE THE DATES *watch for more information in the coming year*

### Men's Retreat Saturday, February 1, 9:00-3:00

With Fr. Michael Phillips, Pete Mathison and Larry Hunter among other men, telling their journeys to Christ and his Church

### Women's Retreat Saturday, February 15, 9:00-3:00

With Fr. Michael Phillips, Patty Scheier from St. Louis and Lorrene, an 85 year old farm mom, Lorrene share their stories of faith.

### Couples Night Out Saturday, March 1, 6:00-8:30

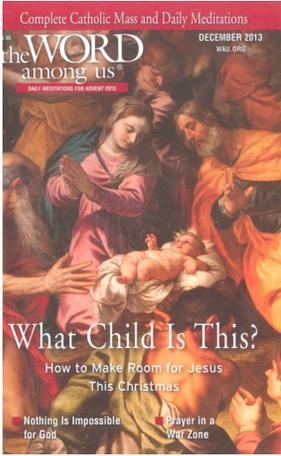
With Joel & Lisa Schmidt from Des Moines: Keeping the Mr & Mrs in Mom & Dad; Balancing family life; Making a Social Media Plan Dinner and childcare provided. (see [www.thepracticingcatholic.com](http://www.thepracticingcatholic.com))

### Christ Our Life Conference Des Moines, Sept. 20 & 21

Including: Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Immaculee Ibagiza, Fr. Larry Richards, Tony Melendez, Steve Angrisano, Mark Hart, **and more!**

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 Solon, IA 52333  
 319-624-2228  
 www.solonstmary.org

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Pick up your free copy of the Advent edition of **the WORD Among Us** in the church gathering space..... **This Advent listen to the voice of Christ in his Gospels.**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Let us renew our trust in the Holy Spirit every day. Let us be guided by Him, witnessing the Gospel with courage, becoming instruments in our world of God's unity and communion.*  
**Pope Francis, May 2013**



**Pope Francis' General Audience catechesis on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 is offered below.**

Evangelization is the mission of the Church, not just of a few, but my, your, our mission. The Apostle Paul exclaimed: "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel." **Everyone must be evangelizers, especially through their life!**

**To evangelize, we must be open to the action of the Spirit of God, without fear of what He asks us or where He leads us.** He enables us to live and bear witness to our faith, and enlighten the hearts of those we meet. This was the Pentecost experience of the Apostles gathered with Mary in the Upper Room. The Holy Spirit descending upon the Apostles, compels them to leave the room in which they had locked themselves in fear, makes them come out and turns them into heralds and witnesses of the "mighty works of God."

We should all ask ourselves: how do I let myself be guided by the Holy Spirit so that my witness of faith is one of unity and communion? Do I bring the message of reconciliation and love that is the Gospel to the places where I live? What do I do with my life? Do I bring unity? Or do I divide with gossip and envy? Bringing the Gospel means we in the first place must live reconciliation, forgiveness, peace, unity, love that the Holy Spirit gives us. Let us remember the words of Jesus: **"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"** (John 13:34-35).

**St Mary's Evangelization Prayer:**

Gracious and loving God, you have called us to sing your praises at the table of your word and Eucharistic meal of your Son.

Open our minds to the truth of your word and our hearts to your sacrificial love.

May the light of your Holy Spirit shine through us as we proclaim your message to those we serve.

Bless our parish to be an outward sign of your saving love as we announce the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

And the Angel said to Mary, *The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Mary went in haste to share the good news. We too must go in haste to share the good news of her Son to a world in need of hope and truth