



HOLIDAY INFORMATION

No Morning Mass or Morning Prayer between Christmas and New Year's [December 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31].

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, December 27th to Monday, January 3rd

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS: 10:00 AM

SUNDAY, DEC. 26 & SUNDAY, JAN. 2,
MASSES at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Donations for the year 2010—must be received NO LATER than January 16, 2011 in order to be credited to your 2010 income tax receipt.

Donation Envelopes for 2011 are in the gathering area of the church.

During this Christmas season, our parish masses will be offered for all our intentions, including our families and friends.

Let us remember to also pray for:

- *all who are ill and who are suffering
- *those who have died recently [including Mrs. Katherine/Kay Preston], and for those who will die during this season
- *those who are grieving
- *those who are lonely and sad
- *those who are struggling with the burdens of poverty, and unemployment

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

LUNCHEON FOR COLLECTION COUNTERS & BULLETIN STUFFERS

Jan's Thank You for your help to her for the past year – **Tuesday, January 11th**; in the parish hall at noon.

SACRAMENTAL REGISTRATION—**Friday, January 14th**; in the parish hall beginning at 6:30 PM. For all parents/guardians who wish to have a school-aged child celebrate a sacrament in 2011 at St. Gerard's, and who did not attend the registration in October. Please bring your child's baptismal certificate if your child was not baptized at St. Gerard's. This gathering will be approximately one hour. You will meet the sacramental coordinators, be given an overview of the sacramental prep, and will fill out registration forms.

ST. GERARD'S BOOK CLUB—The evening Book Club will resume on **Tuesday, January 18th** at 7:30 PM. We meet regularly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Our chosen book for the spring session is Jesus' Plan for a New World by Richard Rohr.

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest who is known worldwide as a speaker and author. In this work, he collaborates with John Brookser Feister, to explore the Gospel of Matthew and to delve into the Sermon on the Mount, considered to be the blueprint for the Christian lifestyle. "The secret to understanding the Sermon on the Mount", says Rohr, "is to understand what Jesus was about when he preached it. This book is as much about getting ready to hear the Sermon as it is about the Sermon itself."

Everyone is welcome! For information and books, please call Jan in the parish office.

ECUMENICAL LUNCHEON—**Wednesday, January 19th**; in our parish hall at noon. Everyone is welcome. Each parish will bring soup and a quantity of their community's 'bread specialty' [what is ours?? Egg salad sandwiches?? We need feedback on this.] We will need people to make soup and our bread specialty – whatever you decide that may be. Each congregation will share why/how their bread choice is important in their community. The theme music for this gathering will be: SONG OF THE BODY OF CHRIST by David Haas. We are also looking for 13 people who would like to bake a loaf of bread as a table centerpiece [which will be shared at the table]. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Doreen Yochim, in the parish office. St. Peter's Anglican parish, St. Andrew's Presbyterian parish, Shepherd King Lutheran parish, St. Andrew's United parish, and St. Gerard's Catholic parish are co-hosting this luncheon as our 'prayer gathering' for the Week of Christian prayer.

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM THE PARISH TEAM

Do we live conscious of the fact that Christmas is a feast that changes in meaning as we move through life, growing more and more aware of its real significance for us?

What Jesus did to survive life, to bear life, to create life, to become life, we are called to do also. Our struggles are not new. Our questions are not senseless. Our burdens are not unbearable. Emmanuel is our reality.

Christmas, the remembrance of the birth of Jesus; Christmas, the consciousness of eternal Life among us; Christmas, the reminder that we are to 'bring forth' Jesus into our own time & space.

We wish each one of you a peace-filled and joyous Christmas season, blessed with family & friends.

**We pray that 2011 will be a year of abundant spiritual blessings for you.
Thank you for letting us serve you; thank you for your generous stewardship to the many needs of our community/world;
thank you for taking care of us.**

