

the Quill and the Cloth

“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 in fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.’”

- St. Luke

As you read this week’s column from the pastor, you no doubt have already lived through another “Thanksgiving Day” this past Thursday as you watched parades, took in a football game and perhaps too large of a plate of food in front of you with your family and friends. Perhaps you shopped a bit on “Black Friday”, and maybe even did a bit of shopping on “Small Business Saturday”. The culture will tell us that we must look ahead to the coming of Christmas that is only weeks away. We are equally convinced that Christmas will not be successful unless those stockings are stuffed with gifts and that green tree in the corner of the living room is buried under by a bunch of expensive Christmas gifts.



While the “culture” tends to get ahead of itself more often than not, the “Church” and the season of Advent has for once beat the culture! For while some Catholics and Christians think that Advent is all about looking ahead for four weeks until we reach Christmas, the truth is that the season of Advent is all about looking ahead, not to a “major feast” but rather to that “major moment in time” when Christ will appear in all His glory through His second coming.

Most of us as Catholics have been going to Church long enough to know that as we come to the close of the calendar and the liturgical year, the readings begin to address the issue of the end of the world and the beginning of the world that is to come. Yet, not as many of us are as familiar with the fact that, when we come to the beginning of the new liturgical year and the start of the Advent season, the focus is **STILL ON THE END OF THE WORLD AND THE END OF TIMES!**

Isn’t it a scriptural and liturgical curiosity that on November 15, 2015, the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, (that was the Sunday I started out with re-introducing you to the “Age of Aquarius”), the gospel from St. Mark read, in part, the words of Jesus: “*In those days after the tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not*

give it light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.” Then, we fast-forward just two weeks, into the “New” liturgical year, and the gospel that is now taken from St. Luke’s account sounds almost exactly the same. For St. Luke writes our Lord saying: “*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*”.

Is it just a spiritual or liturgical coincidence that both the end of the old liturgical year of 2014-2015 and the beginning of the new liturgical year of 2015-2016 would both address the changing forces of the nature such as the moon and the Messiah’s return in His second coming? Absolutely not! For the call of Christianity and the call of Catholicism is a constant call to live in the shadows of the “Parousia” (a Greek word), referring to the final or second coming of Christ. In the seminary, we learned that the best way to describe living in the expectation of Christ’s coming through the Parousia was through a type of contradiction of terms, through the “already-but-not-yet”.

Living the “Parousia” spiritually is not that hard as we do it rather easily each Advent season. For while we are to live in anticipation of Christmas, most people have their homes already decorated for Christmas and are attending Christmas parties, even though it is not Christmas yet. In like manner, we should try to materially be more detached from the world and not attached to the world, and to live with a certain sobriety and spiritual alertness, always mindful that no one knows the exact day or hour of the Lord’s return.

I love the season of Advent in spite of its brevity. May it be a time of prayer, penance and personal renewal as we prepare to celebrate once again the re-birth of the Christ Child into our hearts and our lives. Marantha! Come Lord Jesus! Do not delay!

Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor

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| | <i>Listen to</i> |
| | Bishop John M. LeVoir's WEEKLY ADVENT MESSAGE available online www.dnu.org |

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving.”

- H.U. Westermayer

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Adult (131) | \$ 8,561.00 |
| Electronic Giving | 4,006.25 |
| Junior | 64.73 |
| Plate | 293.40 |
| Christmas Flowers | 40.00 |
| November Fest(ival) - Silent Auction | 516.00 |
| November Fest(ival) - KC Bingo Contribution | 127.75 |
| Catholic Campaign for Human Development | 1,115.75 |
| Stole Fee | 50.00 |

Grand Total **\$ 14,774.88**

**(Our weekly budget is set at \$12,900.00)*

STEWARDSHIP

Usually, my experience has been pastorally, that the week after the parish festival, the weekend offerings are noticeably down. You good people of Holy Rosary are pretty amazing. Not only is the collection strong but the total amount exceeds again our budgetary needs. Thank you for that. Many thanks too for your generous contribution to the Campaign for Human Development. Thank you for being so understanding when we, as pastors and priests, have to hold up these additional collections besides our regular local needs. A Blessed and holy Advent to you all! Blessings!

PARISH MEETINGS – AT A GLANCE

- 1) Monday, November 30th: 7:00 pm - Education Committee (Conf. Rm. 1)
- 2) Monday, December 7th: 4:00 pm - Social Concerns (Conf. Rm. 1). 7:00 pm - C.C.W. Meeting (Conf. Rm. 1.)
- 3) Thursday, December 10th: 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council (Conf. Rm. 1)

PENANCE SERVICES

Sometimes we forget that the season of Advent is not just a time of anticipation for the great feast of Christmas, but it is also a penitential time as we renew our relationship with Christ as we long for Christ's "second coming" at the end of time.



While we are still working out the details, Holy Rosary is planning to celebrate their Communal Penance Service at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 20th. There are also two other penance services that I am aware of that are being scheduled at St. John's and Ss. Peter and Paul's on Dec. 13th at 4:00 pm (St. John's) and 6:00 pm (Ss. Peter and Paul). As pastor, I will be present at all of these services as well to assist with the sacrament.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SUNDAY MASS!

Thank you to all the 9th – 11th grade students who played a part in the Mass on Sunday, November 22nd, whether it was serving, reading, greeting people, carrying up the gifts, or being part of the procession. I heard very favorable comments on how nice it was to see and hear the students! Look for grades 7th & 8th on December 6th!

“COME TO BETHLEHEM”

This year, our PS – 6th graders will be performing “Come to Bethlehem” on **Sunday, December 13th at 12:30 pm.** Students will be practicing in their religious education classes. We will also have a **dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 12th at 10:00 am.** Please mark these dates on your calendar!



UPCOMING DATES

- November 25th**: No Class - Thanksgiving Eve
- December 2nd**: Grades 1 – 6 meet from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
- December 9th**: Grades 7 – 11 meet from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Social Hour/Pizza available from 6:00 pm to 6:50 pm. (A \$3 donation is suggested for pizza.)
- December 16th**: Grades 1 – 6 meet from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
- December 23rd**: **No Class - Christmas Break**
- December 30th**: **No Class - Christmas Break**
- January 6th**: Grades 7 – 11 meet from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Social Hour/Pizza available from 6:00 pm to 6:50 pm. (A \$3 donation is suggested for pizza.)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Education Committee will be meeting on Monday, November 30th, at 7:00 pm. If you have any thoughts or ideas you would like us to discuss, please call or email Cathy Neve at 345-6765 or nevec@hickorytech.net

**CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
WORKING ON THE MARGINS**

Thank you for your contributions to the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)! Your generous gifts will help CCHD end poverty in the United States through better education, improved housing, and economic development. Through CCHD and its beneficiaries, we demonstrate Catholic social teaching and carry out Jesus' mission to "bring glad tidings to the poor . . . to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (Lk 4:18).

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, Nov. 30: Saint Andrew, Apostle

8:05 am – Rosary
8:30 am – Mass - Bill Fox†
7:00 pm – Education Committee Meeting (Conf. Rm. 1)

Tuesday, Dec. 1: Advent Weekday

7:00 am – Mass at Ss. Peter & Paul
8:15 am – Mass at St. John the Baptist
12:05 pm – Mass at St. Joseph the Worker
7:30 pm – River of Life (Conf. Rm. 2)

Wednesday, Dec. 2: Advent Weekday

9:00 am – Mass at Loyola Primary School (Fr. Paul)
- Todd Mettler Family
3:00 pm – Reconciliation Service at SSND (Fr. Paul)
6:00 pm – Holy Rosary Choir Practice
6:00 pm – Grades 1-6 Rel. Ed. Classes

Thursday, Dec. 3: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

8:05 am – Rosary
8:30 am – Mass - Michael & Katherine Karpinsky
10:15 am – Holy Communion Service Pathstone

Friday, Dec. 4: Advent Weekday (Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church)

8:05 am – Rosary
8:30 am – Mass - Bill Zoelle†
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass
*9:00 am - 3:00 pm – Eucharistic Adoration
3:00 pm – Benediction

Saturday, Dec. 5: Advent Weekday

Memorial Service for Gregory Snaza† at Morson-Ario
4:30 pm – Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 pm – Rosary
5:00 pm – Mass - Mark & Pam Weingartz

Sunday, Dec. 6: Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 am – Rosary
8:00 am – Mass - Betty Brown†
9:30 am – Rosary
10:00 am – Mass - People of the Parish
(Nursery, Pre-K Sunday School & CLW during the 10:00 am Mass)

CCW DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual CCW Christmas Party will be held Monday, December 7th, at 6:00 pm with a potluck supper. The program for the evening will be a craft night, with attendees putting together a simple evergreen table centerpiece. Supplies will be provided; bring along a scissors or pruners. If you would like to be a part of a gift exchange, bring a wrapped \$5 - \$10 gift item. A collection for a needy cause will also be offered. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend. Bring along your daughters. There will be no formal meeting that evening.



DEC. 5 - 6 LITURGICAL ROLES

Lectors

5:00 pm: Caroline McGowan
8:00 am: Nancy Holden 10:00 am: Rel. Ed. Students

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm: Eileen Wadekamper, Rebecca Gruenes, John & Lori Daley, Brenda Voracek, *Karen Winters
8:00 am: Mary Homan, Steve & Shelly Bauer, Mary Beth Nygaard, Margaret Ayers, *Craig Amundson
10:00 am: Sherry Henrickson, Dawn Matz, Rick Gruber, Bob Wegscheid, Kristin Cain, *Brent Friedrichs

Altar Servers

5:00 pm: Anna Voracek (Cross, Book, Bell), Mitchell Bigaouette, Jonathan Hull
8:00 am: Carson Fischer, Ben & Lauren Cahalan
10:00 am: Matthew Helget, Elaine Adams, Spencer Spaude

Presentation of Gifts

5:00 pm: Tom & Marcy Koch
8:00 am: Mike Brumm Family
10:00 am: Rel. Ed. Students



Ushers

5:00 pm: Larry Bennett, Jason Hacker, Steve Enderle, Bob Meyer (*Head Usher*)
8:00 am: Christopher Backes, Bill Cahalan, Jake Homan, Dough Homan (*Head Usher*)
10:00 am: Brandon Bernard, Glenn Verschelde, Steve Kaiser, Mark Weingartz (*Head Usher*)

Music Ministry

5:00 pm: Myra Schroepfer/Jeanne Makela
8:00 am: Julie Gruber/Jeanne Makela
10:00 am: Kathy Jo Johns & Nancy Evans/Vicki Galli

Rosary Leaders

5:00 pm: Paul Stevens 8:00 am: Margaret Ayers
10:00 am: Curt & Donna Stanke

Money Counters for December 2015:

Bob Manwarren, Renee Amundson, Adrian Person, Mike Schneider

Bulletin Folders for December 2015:

Ruth Fitterer, Rosal Molski, Bob & Renee Amundson

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the people that helped change the missalettes this past Monday. Several people commented that it didn't take very long! Many hands make light work! Your time was much appreciated.



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS...

PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR ALL OF OUR SICK AND INJURED OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH



Our prayers go out to all of the sick and injured in our parish who are at home, in the hospital, nursing homes or assisted-living residences. May God bless them and keep them under His guidance and protection!

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Loretta Becker, Canton Polk, Mona Wakholz, Ruth Gag, Charles Ulman, Kathy Meyer, Daniel Crowley, Marilyn Rieff, Donna Peterson, Juliette Shamp, Ruth Baker, Ruth Fitterer, Jane Keltgen, Isaac Kolstad, Rachel Tobin, Mary Jane Ledwein, Doris Lorentz, Bill Goettlicher, Krystal Portz, Steve Fitterer, Gabriel Speckel, Shannon Murphy, Lisa LaPoint Leland, David Bruender, Susan Zenk

FOR OUR FAMILIES

- Monday** Gerald & Shirleen Gulden
- Tuesday** No Mass
- Wednesday** Shannon Peters
- Thursday** Leslie & Theresa Calsbeeck
- Friday** JoNell Kvamme
- Saturday** Jim & Gail McKissick
- Sunday** Gary & Michelle Schmit

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Nick Blace | Timothy Eick | Ben Barsness |
| Jared Hiniker | Matt McGraw | Sean O'Dea |
| Ann Winkler | Christopher Schmidt | Daniel Fitterer |
| Dana Schiller | Jonathan Heintz | Anna Drummer |
| Mark Hansen | William Backes | |



PRAYER CHAIN

If you, or someone you know, would like to be included in our prayer chain, please call Karen Etzell, 387-7877.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon:** Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
- Tues:** Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
- Wed:** Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
- Thurs:** Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Fri:** Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
- Sat:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sun:** Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

K. OF C. COUNCIL #5551 NEWS

- Dec 10 - Planning Meeting
- Dec 12 - Parish Christmas Party 6:00 pm



FLOWER AND CHRISTMAS DECORATION OFFERING ENVELOPE

Attached to this week's bulletin is an envelope to defray some of the expenses that are incurred liturgically when we decorate at Christmas as well as throughout the liturgical seasons. Since Christmas and Easter are the two primary times that we collect monies for our liturgical environment, we also use the money to decorate in the other seasons such as Advent, as well as the Fall decorations of which so many of you commented looked so nice. Thank you for your vote of confidence.



The Worship Committee is looking into the purchase of a beautiful five-foot statue of St. Francis of Assisi in honor of Pope Francis's pontificate. It would be displayed in the month of St. Francis (the month of October), as well as during the season of Ordinary Time in our sanctuary. When we have sufficient monies for this statue we anticipate purchasing the statue as part of our "permanent" environment of the church.

Thank you for your generous support in the past as well as in the near future .

SOCIAL CONCERNS LITURGICAL CHANGE

"I was a stranger and you did not welcome me."

-St. Matthew's Gospel

As we enter into a "New" liturgical year this week with the celebration of the First Sunday of Advent, we are introducing a couple of new liturgical changes. One of those changes, at the suggestion of the Social Concerns Committee is that following the closing hymn, and the final applause, we will ask that the pianist or organist stops playing for just a moment in order for the song leader to announce that everyone in church is invited to turn and greet the person near them that they do not know. Many times when we leave church we 1.) *Leave in a hurry*, 2.) *Say hello only to our familiar friends or family*, 3.) *Don't speak to anyone else*, 4.) *Rarely introduce ourselves to the stranger in our midst*.

One of the two factors that causes a family or household to join or remain in a parish according to recent pew research is A.) the quality of the sermon, and B.) The friendliness of the parish. The first point is largely the job of the priest. The second point is largely the job of the parishioners. May we show the wonderful spirit we have here at Holy Rosary and extend to all whom we know and still do not know.

CALVARY CEMETERY WREATHS

Calvary Cemetery is now taking orders for Christmas Wreaths to be placed on your loved one's graves. For further information, please go to www.calvarymankato.wordpress.com or call Terry Miller at 507-955-1010.



As we look toward the **season of Advent**, we anticipate a time of prayer and of reaching out to those in need. Intermediate and High School students will create Christmas baskets for members of local parishes, and Primary School students will collect baby items to be distributed through the local chapter of Birthright.

Turkey Bingo last weekend was a great time! Thanks to the Mankato Holy Family Council of Catholic United Financial and to all the generous donors and workers who made the event a success. All proceeds will come to Loyola teachers for use in their classrooms.

Join us on **Friday, December 4 at 7pm for Christmas at Loyola Chapel**; a service of scripture and music preparing our hearts to receive Christ. A free will donation for Echo Food Shelf will be collected. Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger Chapel, Loyola's Upper Campus: 145 Good Counsel Drive.

Plan ahead for some great Christmas shopping! Loyola is hosting a **Barnes & Noble Book Fair on Saturday, December 12**. Come and enjoy story times, music provided by our K-12 students, Loyola's family spirit, and gift-wrapping, while purchasing books, gift cards, and other items that will delight the people on your Christmas gift list!

Loyola's **Spirit Shop** is stocked for gift-giving: sweatshirts, hoodies, tees, fleece blankets, mugs, and Loyola accessories. The shop is open Thursday afternoons and there will be a Christmas sale on December 3, beginning at 3:00 pm. Contact a school office or check out the Loyola Spirit Shop facebook page for details.

SCRIP cards make great gifts! Contact jschlosser@loyolacatholicschool.org to inquire and purchase SCRIP cards from local and national vendors.

Save the date! Loyola will host a **State of the School gathering** on Monday evening, December 14th. Make an evening of it...supper at 5:00 pm, presentations and Q&A at 6:00 pm, Christmas treats at 7:00 pm, and the grades 5-12 band concert at 7:30 pm!

A CALL FOR TENORS AND BASSES

The Holy Rosary Choir has begun preparing for Christmas! We have been blessed this year with a wonderful group - both in number and voices. We are, however, in need of a few more men (or women with a low range). Please consider joining or encouraging someone you know to join. Call Elaine Wolf at 507-387-6501 if you are interested!

TRIDENTINE MASS

The traditional Latin Tridentine Mass is celebrated at Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church on the first Saturday of each month. The next Mass is schedule for December 5th at 9:00 am. A question and answer period with coffee and rolls will follow on the fourth floor. All are welcome.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Diocesan United Fund (D.U.F.) Diocesan Priest Pension Fund/ Medical, Care Comp Ins, and Priest Care Fund:

Pd. to Date: \$ 31,731.37
DUE: \$ 65,081.69

Annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (D.M.A.):

Rec'd. to Date: \$ 0.00
Recommended: \$ 29,590.78

Loyola Catholic School "Investment":

Pd. to Date: \$ 71,000.00
DUE: \$ 234,000.00

Total Paid to Date 2015-16: \$ 102,731.37
Apostolate stewardship for 2015-16: \$ 328,672.47

Again this week, Holy Rosary contributed \$10,000.00, like we did last week, to our stewardship commitment to our Loyola Catholic School system. This brings us to a total of \$71,000.00 to date. We are still \$500.00 behind from our last-year's contribution total. But, in truth we are about even as we received a reduction in the assistance at the start of the fiscal year.

Thank you to those of you that already gave to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. We have a great start as we are approaching \$1,000.00 that was contributed. Please remember that the Diocese of New Ulm has reformatted the stewardship guidelines for the 2015 D.M.A.. The D.M.A. goal this year of \$29,590.78 is no longer requiring that the parish would make up the difference from parish funds if the parish does not reach its goal. Every dollar that you give this year to the D.M.A. will result in 80 cents going to the Diocese of New Ulm and 20 cents back to the parish. Last year, when the parish reached their goal, 100% of the money came back to Holy Rosary. The parish received several thousand dollars back which was very helpful. This is no longer the case. Now, every dollar that goes over our goal will still be divided out 80/20, with the 80% going to the Diocese and 20% to Holy Rosary. F.Y.I.

FR. ED ARDOLF ENDOWMENT FUND

This fund is now at \$161,609.00. 85% of the earnings of this fund go to pay tuition at Loyola Catholic School for Holy Rosary families. Contributions to this fund may be dropped off at the parish office or sent to the Loyola Advancement Office (145 Good Counsel Dr., Mankato, MN 56001)

**CHRISTMAS FAIR - SUNDAY, DEC. 6TH
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Gather your family, friends and neighbors to celebrate the Spirit of the Season on Dec. 6th at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Le Center, MN from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Nativity Play by 1st Grade at 11:05 am. Activities include: Games for Kids, Cookie Patch, Bake Shop, Raffle Baskets & Silent Auction Items. Enjoy a delicious Brunch served by the KC's.

**ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE
WITH BISHOP LEVOIR**

All families, especially those with children, are invited to attend an Advent Prayer Service with Bishop John M. LeVoir on Sunday, December 6th. The service is at 2:00 pm in Minneota at the Church of St. Edward. This service is designed to help us focus on Advent and prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, centered on the birth of Jesus. Families are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their home nativity set. The figure will be blessed by Bishop LeVoir individually as families come forward in procession. There will be a blessing on families and expectant mothers as they prepare for Jesus' birth in their hearts. A "swaddling clothes" collection (blankets, sleepers, layette items, etc.) will be taken for babies in need and given to Friends of San Lucas, area Birthright Centers, or First Choice Pregnancy Services. Cash donations will be taken to First Choice Pregnancy Services in New Ulm. For more information, contact the diocesan evangelization and catechesis offices at 507-233-5325.



BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Do you know of someone who would be interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church and a full member of Holy Rosary parish? Evangelization begins not with a bulletin, but rather being a Good News person and talking to someone that you know in your house or your neighborhood who is seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord.



Last year, we received some six members into full communion in the Catholic Church. Please contact the parish office if you know of someone or perhaps that "someone" can call the parish office as well to learn more about what it requires to become a member of the Catholic faith. Please call 387-6501. Classes will begin in January of 2016!

**"GUADETTE" WITH SONAR
A JUBILEE OF MERCY CELEBRATION
FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS
(6TH GRADE & OLDER)**

You are invited to "Guadette" A Jubilee of Mercy Celebration taking place Wednesday, December 9th, from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm at Loyola Catholic School's St. Theresa Gallagher Chapel. Praise and Worship music is being presented by SONAR (www.sonarband.com). Key Note Speakers will include Sr. Paul Mary Ritggers (Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Winona) and Fr. Andrew Vogel. Many area Priests will also be present offering a special focus and opportunity to receive the Grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This event is free to the public.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Holy Rosary's Knights of Columbus #5551 are now selling Christmas trees next to the rectory (525 Grant Ave., North Mankato, MN) on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and Mondays - Fridays from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm until December 22nd. Trees include Balsam Fir, Scotch Pine, Fraser Fir, and Canaan Fir. They will also be selling wreaths, boughs, stands, and tree bags. (Please do not park in the rectory driveway.) Your support is much appreciated!



**MID-ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION
December 12, 2015 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato, MN**

Along with shopping, office parties, caroling, tree decorating and baking, take time to prepare your heart, your spirit, your psyche for the coming of Christmas. \$40 includes lunch. Register by Dec. 8th at 507-389-4266 or mjwelter@ssndcp.org

DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL

Thank you for your generosity to the 2015 Diocesan Ministries Appeal. As we go to press early this week, we have already received \$868.00 even before we have made mention of the D.M.A. project at Mass. Thank you for your support. As a result of your generosity, we will already receive back 20% or \$173.60. The 2015 Diocesan Ministries Appeal packets were sent out to all of the parishioners in the first week of this month of November. This year's theme, "Blessed are the Merciful", comes right out of the Beatitudes. This weekend we will have reviewed the video and saw first-hand the impact our contributions have right here in the Diocese of New Ulm. By joining others around the Diocese in support of these ministries, we can offer Catholic Charities counseling to our neighbors in need and we support programs for youth as well as adults in the Church who are doing Christ's work. Our contributions make us one of the merciful. If you have not made your pledge or given a gift, please pick up that envelope and make your contributions now. Please remember that any additional monies that we receive will support our parish project of covering our Diocesan United Fund assessment that we must pay before the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2016 of some \$65,000.00.

If you are able, please consider becoming a member or continuing a membership to the Bishop's Guild for people who are able to contribute \$1,000.00 or more to the D.M.A. Commitment Weekend

This year a new feature has been added - online giving. You can now go on the Diocesan web site www.dnu.org and make your donation/pledge there. Please be as generous as your heart will allow!