



JANUARY 2023

The Compass



Bulletin

www.thecompassnews.org | www.gbdioc.org

Appleton choir chimes in at Christmas

BY JEAN PEERENBOOM | FOR THE COMPASS

APPLETON — The bells will be ringing sweetly on Christmas Eve at St. Mary's Parish. That's handbells as The Bells of St. Mary Handbell Choir brings back its ringing after an absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Director Martha Paalman said the choir will be marking the 40th anniversary of its first performance, which was on Christmas Eve 1982. Christmas Eve will also mark just the second time they have rung since COVID-19 shut everything down in 2020 — that was at Easter earlier this year.

And now they are preparing to ring prior to the 10 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, beginning at 9 p.m. followed by the parish choir concert. The handbell choir will perform from the loft at the back of church so parishioners can hear the bells, but not see the performers, which, Paalman explained, can make the experience all the more ethereal.

Rehearsals in church just recently resumed and the handbell choir is looking for more members. At present, there are eight members including Paalman, who both directs and plays one



JESSICA WAGNER | FOR THE COMPASS

Members of The Bells of St. Mary's Handbell Choir at St. Mary Parish in Appleton practice for their Christmas Eve concert. The choir also performs at Easter.

or two of the bells in each selection. Joining Paalman are Dee Dee Ebben, Mary School, Kim Schmidt, Jenny Schraufnagel, Amy Merwald, Karen Berg and Peggy Kostelnik.

At present, the choir uses bells in two octaves because

there are only eight members. The challenge with handbells, Paalman said, "is that you can't have missing notes. If you do, it is really noticeable."

Our full story appears in the Dec. 16 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on discernment, we have considered its various elements, including prayer, self-knowledge, spiritual experience and the signs assuring us of the rightness of our decisions.

A fundamental attitude that must guide the entire process of discernment, however, is that of vigilance. Jesus often warns his disciples of the need to be watchful, lest the enemy take advantage of our distraction and bring our good efforts to naught. The Lord gives the example of an unclean spirit who, chased from a house, returns to find it clean but empty, since its owner is absent, and then comes back with seven of his companions.

Like that owner, we too can fail to guard our house and keep our hearts pure as a dwelling for the Lord. When we trust excessively in ourselves and not the Lord's grace, our presumption can open a door to the evil one and can find ourselves "worse than before" (cf. Lk 12:45).

+ Pope Francis, Dec. 14, 2022

@Pontifex

Follow Him On

twitter

Helping the calendar turn through the church's decorations

BY BENJAMIN WIDEMAN | FOR THE COMPASS

DE PERE — The day after Thanksgiving was anything but a rest day for Sue Yakoubek. With help from a few volunteers, Yakoubek spent nearly eight hours on Black Friday decorating for the Advent season at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

"It makes me feel good when people tell me they like the decorations or when they say the church looks beautiful," she said.

"Whatever the season, I try to make the church look like that's the season we are in. When people see the decorations and tell me they like what I'm doing, and they feel 'in the season,' that gives me incentive to keep going.

My feet sometimes get pretty sore from standing for a whole day of decorating. But if people like what we've done, then it's worth it."

She collaborates with her pastor, Norbertine Fr. James Baraniak, and the parish's director of music and liturgy, Jody Strnad.

Our full story appears in the Dec. 2 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Baptism of the Lord

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

1 The feast is celebrated this year on a Monday, Jan. 9, instead of on Sunday.

2 In countries like the United States, where Epiphany is marked on Sunday (this year Jan. 8), the Baptism is moved to Monday. (The Cana wedding is the Gospel on Saturday Jan. 7 this year.)

3 The Lord's Baptism is one part of the Epiphany feast: the Magi's visit, the Lord's Baptism and the wedding at Cana. A separate "commemoration" for the Lord's Baptism, on Jan. 13, was first instituted in 1955 by Pope Pius XII.

4 In 1960, St. John XXIII elevated it to a feast day, also on Jan 13, one week after Epiphany (Jan. 6).

5 In 1969, St. Paul VI moved the feast to the Sunday after Epiphany.

Everlasting hope throughout Christmas

Merry Christmas, Brothers and Sisters! I hope you have a wonderful Christmas Day and season.

Remember the phrase, "Jesus is the reason for the season?" It became popular when



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

people were losing the sense of the real purpose of Christmas. Instead of remembering the birth of Our Lord, people were getting absorbed in the commercial aspect of the season, focused on giving and receiving gifts. Giving gifts at Christmas is a wonderful tradition, but the real gift of Christmas is the gift of the Father. God loves every person

ever created so much that he sent his only son to save us. At Christmas, God gives us the everlasting gift of HOPE!

Without hope we perish. Our lives become empty and far more difficult than they need to be. In Jesus Christ, son of the everlasting Father, HOPE was born in a cave because there was no place else to go. He was born on the margins and placed in a feeding trough for animals as his first crib. The very Son of God was born in the poorest and most humble of conditions.

From that cave the world began to hear in the cries of that little baby, "Life has meaning. God loves you and I am here to prove it with the gift of my life." With his birth, life makes sense; life has meaning. HOPE is restored.

As you take time to meet Jesus in the manger this Christmas season, may your lives be filled with the hope that only he can bring. Merry Christmas!

Follow Bishop Ricken on Twitter, @BpDavidRicken.

Schools SNAPSHOT



NANCY BARINEL | FOR THE COMPASS

On Dec. 7, members of the ASTRA Club at Notre Dame Academy in Green Bay decorated the Christmas tree at the Altrusa House in Green Bay. For over 20 years, the Altrusa House, founded by the Altrusa Club of Green Bay, has provided a place to stay for individuals who are in the city to support loved ones at local hospitals or are themselves undergoing out-patient treatment. Pictured at left are Delaney Gallagher, co-president (standing), Brenedyn Barajas (left) and Grace Del Frate. Pictured at right are Lachlan Chambers (standing), Zita Lullaff (left) and Mia Lemkuil, co-president.

The Compass

Official Newspaper for the Diocese of Green Bay

eNEWSLETTER!

GET FREE CATHOLIC NEWS.
SIGN UP NOW!



Submit your Snapshot Email your digital photo to us at compassnews@gbdio.org