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Hand in Hand

Newsletters

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Winter 12-1-2023

## Hand in Hand, Winter 2023

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## SPECIAL EDITION OF THE WINTER NEWSLETTER

Here is the second part of the Winter Newsletter. I hope you were able to enjoy the previous first part, the Advent portion, these past few weeks. This newsletter is the Christmas edition.

Before we begin, let us pray to the Communion of Saints: The Immaculate Conception, patroness of our country, pray for us. St. John the Evangelist, patron of our archdiocese, pray for us. St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of the Deaf, pray for us. St. René Goupil, our Deaf saint, pray for us. Blessed Alexandre Planas Saurí, pray for us. St. Josemaría Escrivá, pray for us.

## FR. CK'S CORNER: "HEARTBEAT"



**By Fr. Christopher Klusman**

At all the weekend Masses during the Christmas season (as well as during the previous Advent season), during the readings, we can see

how the events in the Gospel move rather quickly. The Blessed Mother, newly pregnant with Jesus in her blessed womb, went quickly to visit her cousin, St. Elizabeth. After going back to Nazareth, she and St. Joseph got news that they had to hurry to Bethlehem. After giving birth to Jesus in the cave, they had to hurry to Egypt to escape the wrath of the evil King Herod. Years later after the death of King Herod, the Holy Family was informed that they can safely return back home to Nazareth. Remember, this was back in the days when there were

no cars. It was a challenge going from one area to another. But the Holy Family are perfect models of obedience. They always go wherever God tells them to go.

Thinking of our Blessed Mother and how she always ponders and reflects everything that happens in her heart and how God's will must always be the number one priority. Wherever she goes, she always prays and reflects to see God in the daily events of her daily life. Each place becomes like a place of pilgrimage.



I found a beautiful passage from Carrie Gress, an amazing Catholic writer who gave a powerful and

deep insight into a pilgrimage. It blew me away!

Pilgrimages are one of the oldest forms of worship found in every major religion. Part of the draw is to leave our everyday lives

► **FR. CK'S CORNER - Continued on Page 3.**

## MISSION STATEMENT - DEAF APOSTOLATE

The Deaf Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee exists to enable all Catholic Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to participate fully in the liturgical, educational, pastoral, spiritual, and human concerns ministries in the Church.



# St. Andrew Parish

## DEAF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRY

### SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

## FROM THE DELAVAN CORNER: THE BOUNTIFUL GIFTS



**By Jennifer Paul, Coordinator  
Deaf Religious Education & Deaf Ministry  
St. Andrew Parish, Delavan**

This year, we offer religious education classes for elementary and high school students. We also offer a separate class for students preparing for the sacrament of

Confirmation. We are slowly but surely beating to the rhythm of the school year. As we approach Christmas, we need to remind ourselves, both children and adults, that Christmas is not about getting gifts but giving gifts.

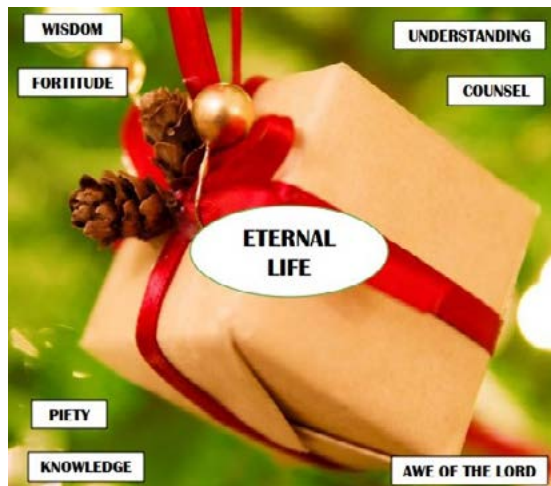
Yet, in this holy season, as we teach our students preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation, it strikes me with a great realization that as Catholic adults, we keep receiving gifts from the Holy Spirit, at Christmastime and throughout the year, for as long as we live!

The sacrament of Confirmation evokes one of the most holy events in this world: the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost bearing seven gifts —

wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and awe (fear) of the Lord. These are real, practical, guiding morals to live our lives as Catholic adults; these are the gifts that keep on giving to us!

Christmas Day is also to celebrate one of, if not the most, holy events of the year: the descent of the Son bearing the ultimate gift for us — eternal life. Together, the gifts are bountiful! We are gifted with the eternal life given to us by the Son of God AND the gifts of the Holy Spirit for daily living on earth by the sacrament of Confirmation.

As bountiful as these gifts are, Most Rev. Jerome Edward ListECKI reminds us in his Nov. 28 email broadcast to “carve out a time for yourselves in a world that is silent to God’s presence.” We must not forget these bountiful gifts and be spiritually mindful of God’s presence and the true meaning of Christmas. We are blessed to have these gifts that keep on giving, and we need to pray for greater resolve to make good use of these gifts against the secular saturation that is also a problem during the Advent season.



About these seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, paragraphs 1830 and 1831 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church explain that:

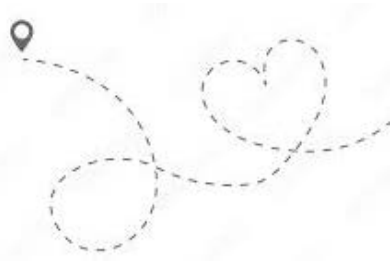
“The moral life of Christians is sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are permanent dispositions which make man docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The seven gifts ... complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations. ‘Let your good spirit lead me on a level path’ (Ps 143:10).”

This Christmas, may we sustain our moral life and heed to the “promptings of the Holy Spirit,” made possible by the seven gifts. As challenging as it is for Catholic adults, imagine the challenge for the Catholic children and teenagers in need of the sacrament of Confirmation and the lack of accessible preparation towards the sacrament for the Catholic deaf youth.

As Catholics and as deaf people, we are obliged to impart this divine guide to our Catholic deaf children and teenagers and continue with the foundational teachings towards the seven

► **FR. CK'S CORNER - Continued from Page 1.**

(the profane) and seek out the sacred in places like St. Peter's Basilica, Santiago de Compostela, or Marian shrines. (Pope St. John Paul II used to call these the places where you could hear the mother's "heartbeat.")



Once we arrive at the sacred, we enter into something beyond us — something that we know will transform us. We enter into the memory of the Christian story, but sometimes we find new graces, new insights, or even healing that change us. Few people leave a pilgrimage site without feeling transformed in some way. As we return to the everyday, we bring with us something of the sacred and pass it along — even in the smallest of ways — to those around us. (Gress, 170)

Did you catch what Pope St. John Paul II said about pilgrimages being places where you can hear the mother's "heartbeat"? For the Deaf community, it could be that we can "feel" the mother's "heartbeat." Of course, we all know that the "mother" whom Pope St. John Paul II referred to is Mother Mary. That was the most beautiful way I have ever seen anyone explain to us what a pilgrimage is like ... a mother's heartbeat. Wow ...

Even a pilgrimage can be made by traveling to closer places, most importantly the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, as well as other areas such as Holy Hill. You can also make a "pilgrimage" through "grace" by praying the Rosary to the various events in the life of Jesus and Mother Mary. It is at all those places that we try to "feel" and "hear" the Blessed Mother Mary's heartbeat. Like how Mother Mary held the newborn Jesus close to her that he could feel and hear her heartbeat in all the places that she carried and went with him.

Reflect back on any pilgrimage you made. Do you notice any experience(s) where you actually felt the Blessed Mother Mary's heartbeat? Will you make any future pilgrimages, and how can you prepare yourself ahead of time to really "feel" and "hear" the Mother's heartbeat?

**Happy Pilgrimages!**

► **THE DELAVAN CORNER - Continued from Page 2.**

gifts of Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and awe (fear) of the Lord, made "complete and perfect" by the sacrament of Confirmation.

That said, we close with Fr. Michael Depcik's renewal prayer for the Deaf Catholic Church:

### **Renewal Prayer for Deaf Catholic Church**

Father, we ask you to look with mercy at us,  
your Deaf Catholic Church.

We ask you to bless us, inspire us to always love you  
above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We pray to you for our bishops, our spiritual leaders.

Please bless them and give them the strength  
and wisdom to guide us, their people.

Help them to recognize, understand, and respond  
to our unique needs.

Please bless the priests, deacons, religious, and lay people  
who serve our community.

Inspire them so that they may  
then inspire all hearts of deaf people  
to know, love, and serve you and your Catholic Church.

Father, we pray to you for our baptized  
Deaf Catholic brothers and sisters.

Please send your Holy Spirit to enkindle and renew their hearts  
so that they may continue to grow spiritually  
through making time for prayers, receiving sacraments,  
and serving other people.

Our young baptized Deaf Catholics are growing up  
in a challenging and confused world.

Almighty God, please help them understand  
that the way of the world does not give life;  
your way alone gives true life.

Please touch their hearts and guide them to find your love.

Bring them back to the Church.

Put in them the desire to pray, to receive the  
sacraments and to serve other people.

Holy Spirit, come and transform each of us  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy Mary, our Mother, pray for us. Amen.

## ST. JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ, MODEL SAINT FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

A great model saint for Christmas and the Eucharistic Revival is St. Josemaría Escrivá. He was born in



Barbastro, Spain, on Jan. 9, 1902, and baptized Jan. 13 of that same year. His parents were devout Catholics who gave him a firm foundation of faith and the Catholic virtues. They taught him a great love for the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. St. Josemaría also learned from his parents about the importance of prayer, devotion to Our Lady and helping others in need.

I'd like to share with you a profound event that happened to him on Christmas:

“In the winter of 1917-18 something happened which was to have a decisive influence on Josemaría Escrivá's future. The snow fell very heavily that Christmas in Logroño, and one day he saw some frozen footprints in the snow. They had been left by a disalced Carmelite. Josemaría found himself wondering: If others sacrifice so much for God and their neighbor, couldn't I do something too? This was how God started to speak to his heart: I began to have an inkling of what Love is, to realize that my heart was yearning for something great, for love. He did not yet know what precisely God wanted of him, but he decided to become a priest, thinking that it would make him more available to fulfill God's will.”

(Borrowed from <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/saints/josemaria-escriva-654>.)

St. Josemaría was ordained a priest March 28, 1925, in Saragossa.



After some time, St. Josemaría was able to receive a new plan from God for him:

“[St.] Josemaría was spending some days on retreat and, while doing his meditation on some notes regarding to the inner motions he had received from God in the previous years, he

suddenly saw — to see was the term he always used to describe the foundational experience — the mission the Lord wanted to entrust to him: to open up in the Church a new vocational path, aimed at spreading the quest for holiness and the practice of apostolate through the

sanctification of ordinary work in the middle of the world, without changing one's place.

... This was the goal he set for the initiatives of the faithful of Opus Dei: to life up to God, with the help of grace, each and every created reality, so that Christ may reign in everyone and everything; to get to know Christ Jesus;

to get Him known by others; to take Him everywhere.” (Ibid)

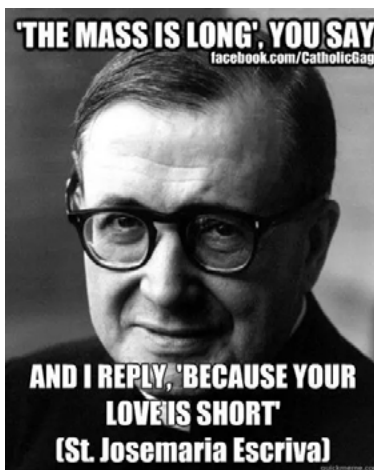
We often forget the difference between a vocation and an occupation. A vocation is something that is 24/7 and “a way of being” that God calls us. Examples are being Catholic living a life of holiness, being a father or mother, priest or nun/sister, and/or husband or wife. Those are several examples of a vocation. An occupation is a job, like a dentist, teacher, construction worker or an accountant. They have limited time shifts, such as five days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

St. Josemaría said that in whatever occupation you currently do, you still can take Christ everywhere through your words



The humility of Jesus: in Bethlehem, in Nazareth, on Calvary. But still more humiliation and more self-abasement in the most sacred Host - more than in the stable, more than in Nazareth, more than on the cross. That is why I must love the Mass so! (Our Mass, Jesus.)  
-St. Josemaría Escrivá

*Eucharistic Virtue*



► **ST. JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ - Continued from Page 4.**

and actions. For example, as a construction worker, you can show, proclaim and teach others about God and his Catholic Church. At the same time, our vocation always takes greater priority over our occupation.

On Oct. 2, 1928, he established Opus Dei, which in English means, “The Work of God.” Shortly afterward, the terrible Spanish Civil War

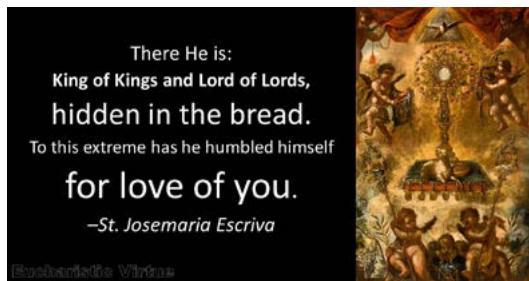
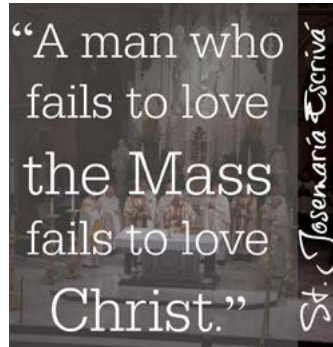
broke out in the year 1936. It was a time of serious religious violence. He would often have to dress himself in regular layman clothing so he wouldn’t be discovered and arrested as a priest. He would meet with people in various places to offer them spiritual direction, especially to offer the much-needed opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Opus Dei spread to many places in the world. “His interior life fed on prayer and the sacraments, and expressed itself in a passionate love for the Eucharist, in the depth with which he lived the Mass at the center and root of his own life ...” (ibid) He eventually celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest March 28, 1975. He passed away shortly afterward on June 26, 1975, at the age of 73 in Rome, Italy, where he is buried.

St. Josemaría was beatified May 17, 1992, and became a saint Oct. 6, 2022, when he was canonized by Pope St. John Paul II. His feast day is June 26.

I hope you enjoy some of his quotes on the Eucharist.

What an incredible occurrence on Christmas that forever changed St. Josemaría’s life. Knowing of the powerful poem, “Footprints in the Sand,” I think that would be the perfect way to end this article. I will change it to “Footprints in the Snow.” This poem reminds us that Christ is always with us, even during times of great suffering that St. Josemaría experienced when following, loving and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. During Christmas, we are reminded that one of the names of Jesus is Emmanuel, which means “God with us.”



**“Footprints in the [Snow]”**

One night I had a dream. I dreamed that I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the [snow]; one belonging to me and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the [snow]. I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of my life. This really bothered me and I questioned the Lord about it. “Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints; I don’t understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.” The Lord replied, “My child, my precious, precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.”

St. Josemaría Escrivá, **pray for us!**



**Magi**

The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

LAUGHTER CORNER



# JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

## In Genesis

- He is the Creator
- He is the Breath of Life
- He is Seed of the woman
- He is the Promised Redeemer
- He is the Covenant Maker
- He is the Ark of Noah
- He is the Angel of God
- He is Jacob's Ladder

## In Exodus

- He is the Passover lamb
- He is the Firstborn offered to God
- He is the Burning Bush

## In Leviticus

- He is the Tabernacle
- He is the High Priest
- He is Fire of Burnt offering on the altar
- He is the water of cleansing in the laver
- He is the Light of the Lampstand
- He is the Sweet Savor of the altar of incense
- He is the Ark that holds the Law and Covenant
- He is Presence on the mercy seat of reconciliation
- He is our Perfect Sacrifice
- He is our Thankful Offering

## In Numbers

- He is the Builder of nations recorded in genealogy
- He is the Pillar of Cloud by day and Fire by Night
- He is the Water in the desert
- He is Aaron's Rod

## In Deuteronomy

- He is the prophet like unto Moses
- He is Moses's voice
- He is the Hope of Promised Inheritance

## In Joshua

- He is the Commander of the Lord's Army
- He is the Victory in the battle
- He is Joshua (means Yahweh is salvation), who delivers His people

## In Judges

- He is the Judge and Lawgiver



## The Whole Bible Points to Jesus

- He is the Strength of Samson
- He is the True Nazarite
- He is the Deliverer from injustice

## In Ruth

- He is the Giver of Bread to the hungry
- He is Rest for the Weary
- He is the Kinsman Redeemer

## In I & II Samuel

- He is the Trusted Prophet.
- He is the Faithful Priest
- He is the True King
- He is the Ebenezer Stone of Help

## In Kings and Chronicles

- He is the Eternal King, the Seed of David
- He is the Sovereign King of kings, greater than Solomon
- He is Elijah's mantle
- He is Shiloh
- He is the True Temple
- He is the Righteousness of the tablets of stone

## In Ezra

- He is the Faithful Scribe
- He is the Priest who proclaims freedom
- He is the Restorer of Worship

## In Nehemiah

- He is the Rebuilder of the broken walls
- He is the Restorer of broken people
- He is the Uniter of people to work together

## In Esther

- He is the Advocate for His people
- He is Mordecai's courage
- He is Esther's willing service
- He is the Protector of His people
- He is the Salvation of Israel

## In Job

- He is the Ever-living Redeemer
- He is the Mediator between God

and man

- He is the Answer to all Job's question
- He is the Power of Restoration

## In Psalms

- He is our Song in the morning and in the night
- He is the Lord our Shepherd.
- He is the Lord our High Tower
- He is the Lord our Redeemer

## In Proverbs & Ecclesiastes

- He is True Wisdom
- He is the Meaning of Life
- He is the Hope we have

## In Song of Solomon

- He is the True Bridegroom.
- He is the Author of faithful love
- He is the Song of songs

## In Isaiah

- He is the High and Lifted-up One
- He is the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father
- He is the Prince of Peace
- He is the Branch of Jesse
- He is the Suffering Servant
- He is the Branch of the Lord who Saves

## In Jeremiah and Lamentations

- He is the Weeping Prophet.
- He is the Tree planted by God's water
- He is the Bearer of God's wrath
- He is the Righteous Branch, a just King with power
- He is the Restorer of Israel

## In Ezekiel

- He is the wonderful Four-faced Living Creature
- He is the Watchman
- He is the Glory of God
- He is the Voice of the Almighty

## In Daniel

- He is the Fourth Man in the Fire
- He is the Crushing Stone
- He is the Ancient of Days
- He is Messiah, the Coming Prince

## In Hosea

- He is the Faithful Lover
- He is the Forgiving Husband

► JESUS - Continued on Page 7.

► **JESUS - Continued from Page 6.**

**In Joel**

- He is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit
- He is the Spirit's power

**In Amos**

- He is the Warning of judgment to come
- He is the Arms that carry us
- He is the Deliverer of justice to the oppressed
- He is the Tabernacle of David

**In Obadiah**

- He is the Judge of Evil-doers
- He is the Hope of Edom

**In Jonah**

- He is the Greater Missionary, sent by God

- He is the One Who Rose from death to prophesy to the lost

**In Micah**

- He is the Ruler from out of Bethlehem
- He is the One who casts our sin into the sea
- He is the Promise of Peace

**In Nahum**

- He is the Prophet of destruction
- He is the Punisher of sin
- He is the Proclaimer of future peace
- He is our Strength and Shield

**In Habakkuk**

- He is the Cry to God
- He is the Strengthen of faith and trust

**In Zephaniah**

- He is the Plead for revival

- He is the Warrior who saves

**In Haggai**

- He is the Rebuker of lack of care
- He is the Encourager who mobilizes work
- He is the Restorer of the lost heritage

**In Zechariah**

- He is the Fountain for cleansing
- He is the Branch, a Servant and Man
- He is the Stone with seven eyes
- He is the Angel of the Lord
- He is the Staff, Beauty, broken for us

**In Malachi**

- He is the Abundant Gift-giver
- He is the Sun of Righteousness, with healing in His wings.
- He is the refiners fire and fuller's soap

## JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

**In Matthew**

- He is God with us
- He is the Jew's Messiah
- He is the Messiah who is King

**In Mark**

- He is the Miracle Worker
- He is the Messiah who is Servant

**In Luke**

- He is the Son of Mary
- He is the Messiah who is Deliverer

**In John**

- He is the Word who created all things
- He is the Messiah who is God incarnate
- He is the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life, the Light of the world, the Gate of the sheep, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and Life, the Way, the Truth and the Life

**In Acts**

- He is the Spirit who indwells His people
- He is the Strength and Power of the Church

**In Romans**

- He is the Righteousness of God
- He is the Law and Grace that sustains us



**In 1 Corinthians**

- He is the Patience of God
- He is the Power of Love

**In 2 Corinthians**

- He is the God of all Comfort
- He is the Sufficient Grace Giver
- He is the Strength in our weakness
- He is the deposit of what is to come

**In Galatians**

- He is our Liberty in which we stand
- He is our Freedom by which we serve
- He is our Life

**In Ephesians**

- He is the Head of the Church
- He is the Unity of the Body
- He is our Glorious Treasure

**In Philippians**

- He is the Joy of our life
- He is the Peace of God
- He is the Heart of our service

**In Colossians**

- He is the Supreme Ruler over all
- He is the Glory in us
- He is the Godhead

**In 1 Thessalonians**

- He is the Comfort in the Last Days

**In 2 Thessalonians**

- He is the Coming King

**In Timothy, Titus and Philemon**

- He is the Foundation of Truth
- He is the Builder, Leader and Director of His Church
- He is the Faithful Pastor and Mediating Priest
- He is the Assurance of our salvation

**In Hebrews**

- He is Perfect Fulfillment
- He is our High Priest
- He is our Ever-Present God
- He is the Captain of our Salvation
- He is the Author and Finisher of our faith
- He is our Everlasting Covenant

**In James**

- He is the Power that fuels our faith
- He is the One who matures our faith
- He is the Healing that we need

**In 1 Peter**

- He is the Bishop of our souls

► **JESUS - Continued on Page 9.**



## A STRANGE CHRISTMAS

Here is a story borrowed from "Our Young People: The Friend of the Deaf" December 1955 issue.

"There'll be no Christmas this year for me. I am going to dodge it," emphatically announced Edward Saunders to his family at breakfast one early December morning.

Mrs. Saunders looked up and said, "Edward, what do you mean?"

Fourteen year old Ted grumbled, "But! Dad! Everyone has Christmas."

Twelve year old Molly, her father's pet, looked askance, "As if anyone could dodge Christmas. Why, it's Our Lord's birthday," she said.

The younger children scarcely noticed the forecast of the impending tragedy.

"Well, I mean what I say," continued the father. "All this fuss and ceremony about Christmas makes me mad. Praying, feasting, hilarity. I'm finished with it. I'm not cutting it out for you. You can all be ready to leave home and go somewhere for a holiday on the twentieth, but I intend to have three days' rest, away in the country by myself, where none of this Christmas rubbish can come near me."

"Edward," replied his wife, "don't be silly. What's the idea?"

Edward Saunders did not like the shocked expression in his wife's eye, and he grew angry, "I am going to prove that a man can dodge Christmas. I'll spend it in a spot where no man will come near, and loaf and rest for three whole days."

"And what about Mass?" questioned Ted.

"I'm cutting it out too, completely."

"But you can't, Dad," asserted Molly.

"Can't I?" Young lady, just wait and see."

"But, Dad, I've got a secret. You won't dodge Christmas and you won't miss Mass."

"Well, we will see. Secret or no secret."

So Edward Saunders was left behind while the family went off to enjoy themselves and to celebrate Christmas in the proper spirit.

To make quite sure that he would get far away from his home, Edward Saunders packed up food supplies and set out early on Christmas Eve in his car for a secluded spot.



"Going to town, I suppose," suggested some friends.

"Yes, yes." He answered vaguely.

But when he had started he decided to follow the river. Turning a bend he discovered the very spot of his dreams. Great boulders had fallen ages before

and blocked up almost the whole river, leaving a broad expanse of water with but a narrow outlet.

"Here I stop," he told himself, and felt very pleased with the success of his plans.

Great storm clouds were gathering but he was relieved to see that they were speeding away to the East.

"Who said I couldn't dodge Christmas," he chuckled to himself when night came and he lay down to rest. "I'm miles and miles from any human being, and I'm all right."

But the storm still rumbled in the distance and the night noises of the country sounded eerily to the town-bred man.

But for long he could not sleep, and memories of other Christmases came to worry his conscience. It was lonely, terribly lonely, this night in the wilderness.

Sleep at last began to dim his eyes and ears and he was falling slowly into heavy slumber when, "Coo-ee. Coo-ee, Coo-ee," the sound came faintly through the trees.

Edward Saunders opened his eyes and listened. "Coo-ee-ee. Coo-ee-ee." Again the cry sounded, more prolonged, more pleading than before.

He jumped up. Someone out there in the darkness needed help. Making a megaphone of his hands he answered lustily, "Coo-ee. Coo-ee." Back came the response and there was a sound of pleasure in the repeated, "Coo-ee. Coo-ee."

Calling and answering thus, the two human beings approached each other. At last Saunders described a man standing on the bank of the river and the moon just rising showed a car standing in the bed of the river. The river was rising as the storm had broken further up, and it was necessary to get the car out as soon as possible.



► **STRANGE CHRISTMAS - Continued on Page 9.**

“Thank God, you came,” said the man. “My car refuses to come out of the mud, and the water is coming down. Can you help me?”

“Yes,” Saunders replied. “If you could switch on your lights, I’ll go back and get my old bus I’ve left up there.”

Both men went off and in a short time the disabled car was towed out of the mud and left on high ground.

“I’m on my way to the village. I’m a priest,” said the stranger. “I was to be there for Midnight Mass, but the storm held me up, and now it will be daylight before I get there. Are you going that way?”

“No. I was not going anywhere particularly. I’m Edward Saunders. I’ll take you there, or if you know the road you had better drive.”

So the two started on the rough drive through the country lanes.

At midnight the priest turned to his companion, and said, “It’s Christmas. Do you mind if we sing the Christmas Hymn?”



Saunders answered, “Father, I’m a Catholic, and I can sing a bit.”

“Good,” exclaimed the priest.

And the woods and field creatures were the only audience as the words of the Adeste rang out in the night.

“Can you answer Mass,” the priest asked.

“Well, Father, once, when I was a boy...”

“Oh, that’s good. You’ll manage. And look, the people must have waited all night. We will have Mass straight away,” decided the priest when he saw a number of people waiting near the church.

“Confession first,” he announced, and Edwards Saunders found himself included among those who were to be heard.

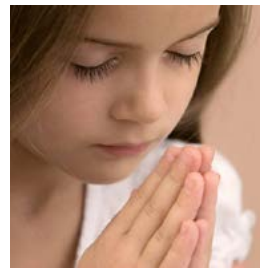
The little church was filled to overflowing and Christmas Mass was offered at the break of day.

And Saunders was at that Mass and Holy Communion too, and later he took the priest some miles further on where he would offer two more Masses that morning.

Later, Edward Saunders telephoned his family.

He told them of his adventure, and to his wife’s question.

“However did you get right out there?” he answered, “Dodging Christmas. Put Molly on, I want her to explain herself.”



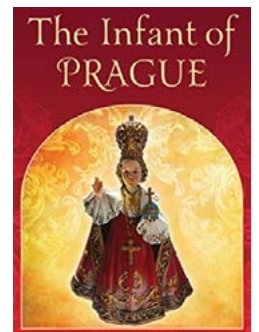
And when Molly’s cheery “Hullo Dad, a Happy Christmas,” greeted him, he said, “What was the secret, Molly, that made you so sure of things.”

“O, Dad,” she replied. “I offered lots and

lots of Hail Marys to the Little Infant that you would go to Mass and Holy Communion on Christmas morning.”

He was silent and Molly asked, “Are you happy, Dad?”

“Yes, my girl. Happier than I deserve.”



► **JESUS - Continued on Page 7.**

- He is the Chief Shepherd
- He is Hope in times of suffering

**In 2 Peter**

- He is our Example
- He is our Purity
- He is the Guard against false teaching

**In 1, 2 and 3 John**

- He is True Love
- He is the Source of Fellowship
- He is God in the flesh
- He is the True God

**In Jude**

- He is the Revealer of apostasy
- He is the Protector from falling
- He is the Preserver of His own

**In the Revelation**

- He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords
- He is the Alpha and the Omega
- He is the Beginning and the End
- He is coming again
- He is the Maker of all things new



## CLARIFYING MISCONCEPTIONS

### Misconception #1

**People seem to worship Mary by giving her a lot of attention. She takes us away from true worship of Her Son, Jesus Christ!**

It doesn't seem right to give Mary only one page in [this Newsletter] about things you need to know regarding Catholicism. Mary is Catholicism. She is the perfect disciple. She is everything we are called to be. While we'll never be perfect like Mary, our pursuit of Christ should lead us to saintliness like hers: rooted in humility, trust, service, and love.

... She is our guardian and our Mother. We ask her daily to pray with us and for us, and we encourage you to ask Her to do the same for you.

A popular question from people, especially non-Catholics, is, "Why focus at all on Mary? Why not just focus on Jesus?"

Often, the question is asked with sincere intentions, but stems from an erroneous idea that Catholics take their attention off of Jesus to focus on Mary.

At no time has the Catholic Church ever suggested taking the attention or focus off of Christ. We as Catholics and Christians, are encouraged, implored, and commanded to look to Christ and focus on Him in our prayers.

The misunderstanding comes in when people think that Mary takes the place of Christ, which she does not. Nor does our invitation to Mary to pray for us get in the way of Christ's work on our behalf.

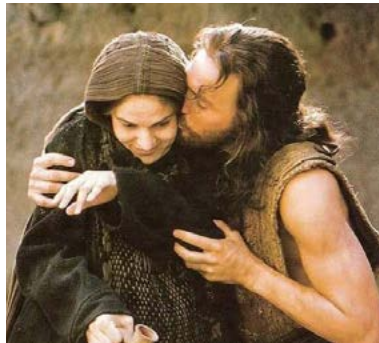
Mary doesn't get in the way of Christ being our mediator to God. She enhances it.

When we pray, we invite Mary to join her prayers to ours, praying with us to Christ. Mary does not **and would not** do anything to divert the glory away from Jesus. She lived to glorify God. Anyone who disagrees should read **Luke 1:46-56**.

A few things I share with or ask people who pose this question to me:



to Jesus  
through  
Mary



The Mother of pure Love.  
Do you wish to find Jesus? Seek Him  
in Mary's arms... she offers Him to us all and  
wishes to give Him to all of us.



When Mary came to Christ with a need (John 2) did He respond to her? Yes.

Did Jesus hold Mary in high esteem, honoring her like a Son should? Yes.

Did Jesus give her to us as a mother (John 19)? Yes.

Did Mary hold a place of honor in the early Church (Acts 1-2)? Yes.

God the Father calls us to be like Christ — to follow Him, emulate Him, love and serve and forgive like Him. It tells us in Scripture (Galatians 2:20) that we become "little Christs" when we follow Him. We are called to imitate Christ in every way (1 Corinthians 11:1). I want to be just like Jesus.

In prayer, ask Christ to grant you His Heart ...

Pray:

I want to have the heart for God that you have, Jesus.

I want to have the heart for the poor that you have, Jesus.

I want to have the heart for sinners that you have, Jesus.

I want to have the heart for the Word that you have, Jesus.

I want to have the heart of mercy that you have, Jesus.

I want to have the heart **for Your Mother** that you have, Jesus.

I have yet to find someone who truly prays that prayer who does not hold Mary in the beautiful esteem that she, as the Mother of God, deserves.

May Our Lady bless you and may her prayers be with you ... She will hold you and walk with you, whenever you call upon her, always directing your path perfectly and gently back to her Son ... like a good mother does.

[Blessed Mother Mary], pray for us!

*Borrowed from "100 Things Every Catholic Teen Should Know" by Mark Hart and Todd Lemieux, pages 12-14.*

## CATHOLIC QUIZ

1. In 2005, a film adaptation of which book, written by C.S. Lewis and featuring the famous line, "Always winter, but never Christmas"?



- (a) The Silver Chair
- (b) The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
- (c) The Voyage of Dawn Treader
- (d) Prince Caspian

2. On which day of creation did God create light and darkness (Genesis 1:3-5)?

- (a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fourth

3. Eucharistic Revival Q: Which of these Bible passages is not about the Eucharist?

- (a) Matthew 26:26-30 (b) Mark 6:34-44
- (c) Luke 24:13-35 (d) John 6:16-21

(Answers on page 12.)

## FRIENDLY REMINDER: "HEALING THE WHOLE PERSON" OPEN TO THE DEAF AND HEARING COMMUNITIES!

Please check back to the previous Advent Hand in Hand Newsletter for information about this amazing opportunity in Waukesha from April 11-13!



Online registration opens Jan. 8, 2024. Members from the Deaf community can contact the Deaf Apostolate Office to preregister at [deafapostolate@archmil.org](mailto:deafapostolate@archmil.org). It is open to people who want to come from the area and/or from out of state (you would be responsible for your own transportation and hotel accommodation).

**Register early**, as in-person space is limited, and this event sells out quickly.



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2001

THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN

KIND OF TAKES THE FUN OUT OF IT WHEN ALL THE GIFTS ARE DIGITAL DOWNLOADS...



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offthemark.com

## WHAT IS THE “CHRISTMAS NAIL”?

*It's a little ornament that carries a profound meaning.*

Maybe this Christmas, a friend will visit your house. As they admire your Christmas tree decorated with lights, images of the Nativity, perhaps some colorful ribbon and a snowman or two, they'll spy a strange little ornament hanging close to the trunk of the tree. It's almost invisible — hidden behind branches and lights and other decorations.

It's a plain, long nail — much like the nails that pierced the hands and feet of Christ during His Passion. Your



Most people don't really want the truth. They just want constant reassurance that what they believe is the truth.

guests might wonder why such a nail would be found on a Christmas tree.

You'll explain to them that Jesus was born in Bethlehem so that, thirty-three years later, He could die for our sins on Calvary.

The Nail is a reminder of the Passion this little babe would undergo, as innocent at His death as He was at His birth. It reminds us of His sufferings and the incredible love that motivated both His earthly nativity and His death. This Nail decorates a Christmas tree, and the nails of His Passion decorated the Tree of the Cross.

The Nail is not in a place of prominence, but almost hidden away near the trunk. It is not so much a decoration, but a prayerful reminder for the family and for those guests with particularly keen eyes and hearts.

A poem explains the meaning of The Christmas Nail:

This is The Christmas Nail.  
It is to be hung on a sturdy branch,  
a branch near the trunk,  
a branch that will hold such a spike without being noticed  
by well-wishers  
dropping by to admire one's tinsel tree.  
The nail is known only to the home that hangs it.  
Understood only by the heart that knows its significance.  
It is hung with the thought that the Christmas tree but  
foreshadows the Christ-tree  
which only He could decorate for us,  
ornamented with nails as this.

You can make this tradition your own [by ordering a Christmas Nail or putting it on your “Christmas Wish List.”] Hung on a red ribbon, this Nail will become a beloved part of your Christmas tree.

*Taken from <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/what-is-the-christmas-nail/>.*



# DEAF APOSTOLATE *Day Retreat*

**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

**Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center**  
3501 S. Lake Drive, St. Francis, 53235



**Theme: “Discerning God’s Will”**

**Presenter: Al Alvord, Coordinator of Catholic Deaf Ministry, Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri**



Al was born Deaf in Chicago, Illinois. His family relocated to St. Louis, Missouri, at the age 4, and he attended St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf. He graduated from Gallaudet University with a Bachelor of Science in accounting and business in 1994. He resided in Olathe, Kansas, from 1995 to 2008, then relocated to St. Charles County, Missouri, where his

family lives. Al has taught ASL in community college and Catholic high school settings for over 20 years. He earned his Master of the Arts in education from Lindenwood University in 2011. Al later enrolled in a Ministry Formation Program for Catholic Deaf in Chicago and received his certificate in 2018. Archbishop Carlson appointed Al as coordinator of Catholic Deaf Ministry for the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 2019, and he has served in that position since then.

*Arrival: 8:30 - 9 a.m.*

*Departure after 4:15 p.m. Mass*

**RETREAT INCLUDES:**

Morning Kringles and Lunch.

**Cost is \$35.**

If financial assistance is needed, please let the Office of the Deaf Apostolate know.

**QUESTIONS: Fr. Christopher Klusman,**  
**klusmanc@archmil.org**  
**or 414-501-2022 (VP)**

**Make check payable to Deaf Apostolate, and mail to:** Deaf Apostolate  
Attn: Fr. Christopher Klusman  
3501 S. Lake Dr., St. Francis, WI 53235

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ VP Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

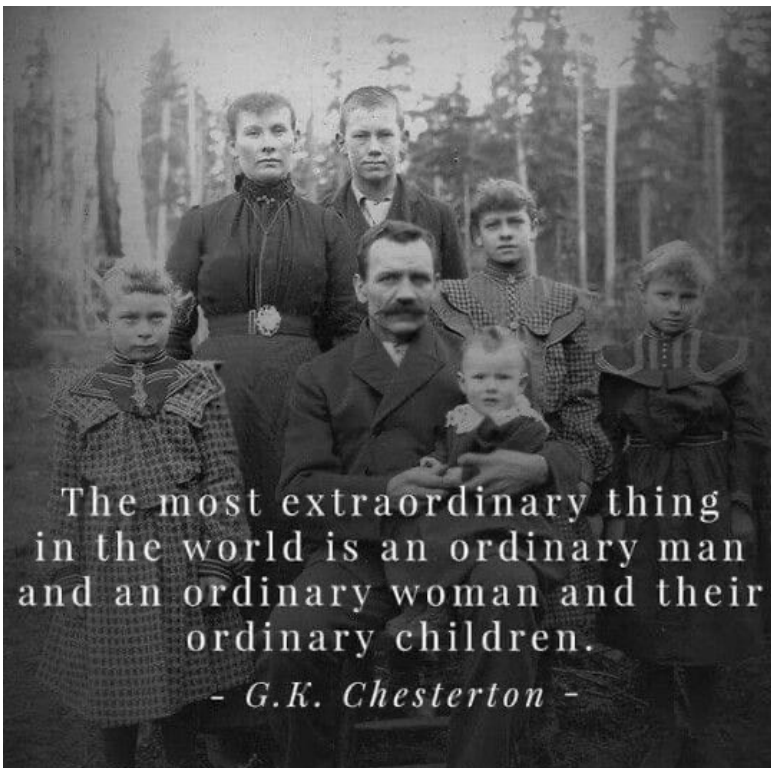
Special dietary or allergy needs: \_\_\_\_\_



**REFLECTION QUESTION:**

Try to start a conversation with your family and/or friends about this question.

What is one Christmas ornament that is special to you and why?



**TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE**

Here is an article from an older Hand in Hand Newsletter from January/February 2000:

**When You Can't Hear the Christmas Bells**



Even though it is after the Christmas season, the following article (with the song) will be wonderful to share for next year's holidays.

A writing assignment for Mrs. Diane Miller's deaf class at Escanaba High School in Michigan,

was to rewrite the famous Christmas song "Jingle Bells." Deaf pride was an important reason for this assignment. Four students worked together with Miller to make up their own version of the holiday song. Mrs. Miller submitted the song to the national deaf magazine, "World Around You," and an excerpt was printed in the November/December issue. We have permission to reprint the song for you.

*Jason Robitaille is a freshman at Escanaba High School and the nephew of Verna Farmer.*

**Jingle Bells: by Paul Cady, Mike Meyer, Jason Robitaille and Don Weber**

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
I am deaf and can't hear them anyway  
Santa Claus ringing bells everywhere you go  
I am deaf, you can hear, ha, ha, ho, ho.

Dashing through the snow; hearing aids are gone  
People stomping, talking, screaming, I feel they're all gone  
I am deaf, I can't hear all that noise out there  
Oh what fun it is to be deaf and you can hear!

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
Oh what fun it is to be deaf, can't hear them anyway  
Noisy streets, noisy bells, soon you'll be deaf, too  
Oh your head, oh your ears, you want to be deaf, too.

Santa Claus is coming, the sleigh lands on the roof  
I feel the whole house shaking, when the reindeer hit the roof  
I sneak to see what's happening, Santa's busy as an elf  
When Santa turns around and sees me, he's signing to himself.

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
I am deaf and can't hear them anyway  
Santa Claus ringing bells everywhere you go  
I am deaf, you can hear, ha, ha, ho, ho.



What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?  
It's Christmas, Eve!



# INTERPRETED & ASL *Masses* THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE



## - ASL WEEKEND MASS -

### St. Charles Borromeo Parish

5571 S Marilyn  
St., Milwaukee,  
WI 53221

Time: Saturdays, 6 p.m.

Please email [deafapostolate@archmil.org](mailto:deafapostolate@archmil.org)  
for updates on Signed Masses.



## - CLOSED CAPTIONED MASS -

### St. Clare Parish

7616 Fritz St.,  
Wind Lake, WI  
53185

E-Mail: [bulletins@tds.net](mailto:bulletins@tds.net)

Website: [stclarewindlake.org](http://stclarewindlake.org)

*\*Times Listed Are Subject to Change\* as of  
October 1, 2022*



## - INTERPRETED SUNDAY MASS -

### St. Andrew Parish

714 E. Walworth Ave,  
Delavan, WI 53115

Time: 9 a.m.

E-Mail: [deafministry@](mailto:deafministry@sascatholics.org)

[sascatholics.org](mailto:sascatholics.org)

Website: [standrews-delavan.org](http://standrews-delavan.org)



### St. Mary's Immaculate Conception

1610 Monroe St,  
West Bend, WI 53090

2nd Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Email: [rprim@wbparishes.org](mailto:rprim@wbparishes.org)

Website: [stmaryparishwb.org](http://stmaryparishwb.org)



### St. Peter Parish

2224 30th Ave,  
Kenosha, WI  
53144

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Please request at least 3 days in advance to:  
[broadwayterp73@gmail.com](mailto:broadwayterp73@gmail.com).

Website: [stpeterskenosha.com](http://stpeterskenosha.com)



### St. Joseph Parish

1619 Washington  
St, Grafton,  
WI 53024

1st & Last Saturdays at 4 p.m.  
and 3rd Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

E-Mail: [parish@stjosephgrafton.org](mailto:parish@stjosephgrafton.org)

Website: [stjosephgrafton.org](http://stjosephgrafton.org)



### St. Paul the Apostle Parish

6400 Spring St,  
Racine, WI 53406

Time: 10 a.m.

(on certain Sundays)

Please check with office prior to attending

E-Mail: [svrana@stpaulracine.org](mailto:svrana@stpaulracine.org)

Website: [stpaulracine.org](http://stpaulracine.org)



### Shepherd of the Hills Parish

W1562 County  
Road B, Eden,  
WI 53019

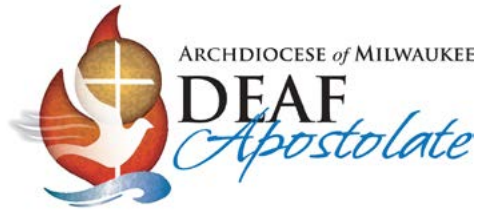
Please email [deafapostolate@archmil.org](mailto:deafapostolate@archmil.org)  
for schedule

Website: [sothparish.org](http://sothparish.org)



ARCHDIOCESE  
of MILWAUKEE





## CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: : Monday, Wednesday — Fridays  
(Fr. Christopher is off on Monday early evenings & Tuesdays)

**Fr. Christopher Klusman**

*Director*

klusmanc@archmil.org

Office: 414-501-2022 (Videophone/Voice)

**General Inquiries:**

deafapostolate@archmil.org

Office: (414) 455-2245 (Videophone)

**EMERGENCIES Only: Text Fr. Christopher at: (414) 793-1369**

### HAND IN HAND SUBSCRIPTION

**Two ways to get the Hand in Hand newsletters:**

- (1) **E-mail:** Cost is FREE and will be emailed to you. Please fill out this online form to get your Newsletter at: <https://www.archmil.org/deaf-apostolate/offnav/Subscription-Form.htm>
- (2) **By Mail:** Fill out and send registration form & check below:

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Mail to: **Deaf Apostolate, Archdiocese of Milwaukee**

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