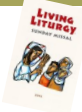


CHRIST THE KING

22 November 2015

TODAY

- Living Liturgy Book Pick-Up
 - Coffee & Donuts
 - Elementary Religious Education
 - First Communion Parent Video (McDuffee)
 - Nursery (Room #102)
 - Middle School Edge (DH)
 - Sunday Night Live (McDuffee)
- after all Masses
after Sunday Masses
- 9am
9am
during 10:30 Mass
5:30pm
7pm

**MONDAY | Nov. 23**

- Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Lk 21:1-4
- Men's Bible Study (Room #101)
 - K of C Meeting (PC LL #1)
- 7am
7pm

TUESDAY | Nov. 24 | St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

- Dn 2:31-45/Lk 21:5-11
- Mass in Chapel (+Joe & Anne Mlynarchek)
 - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)
 - Catholic Divorce Support Group (PC LL #4)
 - Mom's Group (DH)
- 8:30am
9am-7pm
6:30pm
7pm

WEDNESDAY | Nov. 25

- Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Lk 21:12-19
- Thanksgiving Mass in Church
- 7pm

THURSDAY | Nov. 26

- Dn 6:12-28/Lk 21:20-28
- Offices Closed

**FRIDAY | Nov. 27**

- Dn 7:2-14/Lk 21:29-33
- No Mass | Offices Close
 - Black Book Friday (Church)
- 9am

SATURDAY | Nov. 28

- Dn 7:15-27/Lk 21:34-36
- Reconciliation/Confessions
 - Contemporary Choir Practice
- 4:45pm
4:30pm

LORD'S DAY LITURGIES | November 29, 2015*First Sunday of Advent*

Jer 33:14-16 / 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 / Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

5:30pm Saturday

+Bill Arends +Joseph Drueke +Robert Baker

8:30am Sunday

Parish Family

10:30am Sunday

+Gerri Smith

ADVENT 2015

Watch your mailbox for "The Little Blue Book" and other resources to keep this holy season before Christmas.

Women's Advent Night + Dec. 1 ~ 6:30pm

Parent's Day Out ~ Dec. 5 ~ 2-5pm

Coffee & Donuts with St. Nicholas ~ Dec. 6 (after all Masses)

Immaculate Conception Masses ~ Dec. 8 ~ Noon & 7pm

50+ Advent Luncheon ~ Dec. 11 ~ 11:45am

Communal Penance Service ~ Dec. 15 ~ 7pm

Faith Formation Nativity Program ~ Dec. 17 ~ 6:30pm

Blessed are you who believe



real people + real presence

... a welcoming Roman Catholic family of God
empowered by the Holy Spirit
to grow our relationship with Jesus Christ
and with one another
as we worship, pray, learn and serve.



King of the Universe

FAITH CHAT

Pilate and Jesus have a conversation about two different worlds; Pilate's world is where fighting, falsehood and obstinacy predominate...that of Jesus is where life, truth, and openness prevail. **To which kingdom do we choose to belong?**

Family Together: Together as a family, read stories of the saints who were martyred because they spoke the truth.

Prepare for next week: Read and reflect on the First Sunday of Advent beginning on p. 31 in "Living Liturgy" missal).

ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC PARISH

3937 Wilson Ave. SW | Grandville, MI 49418
616-532-9344 | Fax: 616-538-6340

www.spxcatholic.org

Parish & Formation Office Hours:

9-Noon; 1-5pm Mon-Thurs 9-Noon on Fridays

Parish Book of Prayer — This book near the main church entrance is for your prayers of intercession or gratitude. They are part of the intentions at Mass.

Parish Membership — Count yourself in! If you worship with us regularly, kindly register as a parishioner. You'll receive parish mailings, and it will help us provide pastoral care should you need it. Contact 532-9344; or parishoffice@spxcatholic.org.

Infant Baptisms are celebrated at various times throughout the year. If you believe raising your child in our Catholic faith is one of your most important duties as a parent, call the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage — The lifelong covenant between a man and a woman is a sign of God's covenant with us. At least six months of prayer and preparation are needed before entering this commitment. Please contact Fr. Chris as soon as you are engaged. Couples celebrating an anniversary ending in a "0" or "5" may request a special blessing.

OTHER MARRIAGE RESOURCES: www.foryourmarriage.org/

Pastoral Care of the Sick — If you or a loved one are seriously ill, homebound, or anticipating surgery, please contact Marjorie Flores or Fr. Chris in the parish office. The hospitals do not contact us.

PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Chris Rouech | Pastor
532-9344, ext. 107 | frchris@spxcatholic.org

Marilyn Beckwith | Business Manager
532-9344, ext. 102 | businessmanager@spxcatholic.org

Andy Rebollar | Pastoral Associate for Parish Life
532-9344, ext. 103 | arebollar@spxcatholic.org

Marjorie Flores | Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care & Christian Initiation
532-9344, ext. 106 | care@spxcatholic.org

Meghan Schaut | Director of Music
532-9344, ext. 136 | music@spxcatholic.org

Jane Goudelock | Administrative Assistant
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FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Elizabeth Post | Director of Faith Formation
538-2600, ext. 122 | epost@spxcatholic.org

Merry Hass | Coordinator of Youth Ministry
538-2600, ext. 137 | youth@spxcatholic.org

Glenda Trytko | Religious Education Coordinator
538-2600, ext. 121 | gtrytko@spxcatholic.org

Christine Verburg | Secretary, Faith Formation
538-2600, ext. 120 | formation@spxcatholic.org

Sandy Grandy | Secretary, Faith Formation
538-2600, ext. 118 | youth@spxcatholic.org

Kim Lobert | Director of Maintenance
538-2600, ext. 116 | maintenance@spxcatholic.org

The View from 40th and Wilson

FR. CHRIS ROUECH

**Fixate on gratitude and charity, not fear and terror**

The media kept us glued all week to the tragic attacks in Paris. Earlier that same Friday,

explosions ripped through a shopping district in Beirut. It was the worst bombing to strike that city in 25 years.

Alongside our dismay over the senseless carnage, some people are appalled that the suffering of innocent people in the Middle East does not garner as much attention (and compassion) as terrorist attacks in a European city or in the United States.

I suppose that's the nature of us humans. Our hearts are moved by what is close to us—and what is set before us by the TV, computer or radio.

As Catholic-Christians who proclaim

Christ as king, this is what we are called to fixate upon in every circumstance: **charity and gratitude.**

One way to practice charity is to give to the [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#). These monies remain in the United States (and our own diocese) to fund "boot strap" projects that target the core causes of poverty.

If you would like to assist those fleeing the evils of ISIS, [Catholic Relief Services](#) is an excellent organization. See giving details on page four.

Thanksgiving — We will have a special Mass at 7pm Wednesday. Fr. Mel Fox will be the priest-celebrant. I will spend Thanksgiving with my family.

Have a blessed holiday.

A Pre-Advent REFLECTION

With Advent beginning next Sunday, think you'll appreciate this reflection by Rev. John Runkle. He is an Episcopal priest who directs the The Ayres Center for Spiritual Development in Sewanee, TN. This essay was in its newsletter.

On your mark, get set, GO! It's time for one of the most demanding races of the year – the holidays! And whether we like it or not, we all soon will be swept up in the whirlwind. So, get ready, here it comes!

What do I mean?

Once while serving a congregation, a mother of three said to me, "The holidays are a race that begins at Halloween. If I can complete all the tasks that lie ahead and survive to break the tape on Christmas morning then I'll be happy!" As startling as her words sounded, I realized there was a great deal of truth contained within.

Unfortunately for many of us, we experience the holidays just like this woman. Rather than it being a time of joy, thanksgiving and spiritual renewal, it can be a demanding time that sucks the life completely out of us. The last two months of the year can be so overwhelming at many levels – spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, etc., etc., etc. What can we do differently to alter our experience?

Slow down and simplify. Remember we do not have to say "yes" to every demand that is thrust upon us. Some-

times, it may mean we say "no" to good things, which is not easy to do.

Lower our expectations. Contrary to popular perceptions, none of us enjoy a picture-perfect, "Currier and Ives," holiday experience. And all of our families are dysfunctional at one level or another. We delude ourselves to think otherwise, in spite of what our culture leads us to believe. High expectations often lead to disappointment, guilt, anger, depression...the entire list of negative emotions.

Don't look to things outside ourselves for happiness. It doesn't matter how many gifts we give or how many we receive or how much it all cost. The immediate gratification such things bring quickly evaporates leaving us wanting something more to fill the void left behind. Instead, cherish the intangibles – the gift of life and the many wonders it brings each day, the unconditional love we share with those intimate few, the capacity of the human heart to care for others more than itself especially during this time of year, just to name a few.

Make time each day for personal prayer and reflection. Only by giving ourselves the gift of time to sit in silence and consent to the presence and action of the Divine Mystery, the Ultimate Reality, that many of us call God, can we best discern the path forward and come to know the true joy the holiday season has to offer.



Faith Formation | Religious Education

ELIZABETH POST
epost@spxcatholic.org

NO ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES on
Wednesday, Nov. 25 or Sunday, Nov. 29.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE: We will meet tonight (11/22) at 5:30pm
in Danner Hall.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREATS Girls retreat was a great time! We
had over 70 young ladies both participating in the retreat and
helping out. We focused on the life and virtues of St. Mary and
how we are called to respond to God as she did.

HOLIDAY CHARITY OPPORTUNITIES



Food and Gifts

for families of St. Pius X and St. Joseph the
Worker

Various gifts/toys/clothing/etc. as
indicated by the tags on tree.

Non-perishable food items.

*Gifts collected from Nov. 23-Dec. 10 can be placed by the
Giving Tree in the church vestibule. Gifts should be unwrapped.*

Jail/Prison Ministry

Collecting: Plastic frame reading glasses
Tube socks
Travel Size toiletries

*Please help us make winter a
little easier for those struggling in
our community by donating any of
the items below:*

Dégagé
MINISTRIES

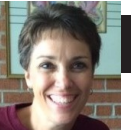
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Conditioner
- Chapstick
- Sleeping Bags
- Reading Glasses
- Men's & Women's
Regular and Long
Underwear
- Razors
- Thick Gloves
- Scarves
- Socks
- Backpacks
- Hand Warmers
- Blankets
- Hats
- Coats

Primary focus on gently used items.

Collection Nov. 14-Dec. 6

High School Youth Ministry

MERRY HASS
mhass@spxcatholic.org



SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SNL** | Nov. 22 & Dec. 13 (ugly sweater) 7-8:30pm in the
Youth Room
- **Feeding America** | Nov. 25 ~ 1-4pm
- **Journey of Faith for High School Teens** | Dec. 2 ~ 6:30-
7:30pm...all are welcome!
- **Parents Day Out** | Dec. 5 ~ 2-5pm
- **High School Leadership Meeting** | Dec. 6 4-7pm XLT at
St. Simon in Ludington—"Pope Francis' Call to Mercy"
- **CHWC Famous Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser** | Dec. 12-13
- **Girls/Guys Retreats & Service Projects:** Dec. 18 & 19
- **Sunday Night Live Reunion** | Dec. 27

(See the Parish Website or contact me for more information or sign-ups)

DYMO CAMP SCHOLARSHIP: DYMO is the only Catholic high
school summer camp in the state and will be held June 12-18 at
Camp Pinewood near Muskegon. It is a favorite of many of the
St. Pius X teens that have attended. If you sign up during the
month of November, you will receive A \$100 discount. St. Pius X
is offering 2 full scholarships to this camp. Scholarship applications
can be found on the parish website and are due to later than
Nov. 23. Learn more at dymo.org.

Parent's Day Out

For Children
Ages
2-12 yrs.



Parent's Day Out is approaching!

Drop off your child and we'll take care of the rest.
Kids have a great time having some wonderful
ADVENTures
so parents can get their holiday prepping done!

**Register
by Wednesday,
Dec. 2
forms are in
Faith For-
mation Office
or online**

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 5
TIME: 2-5pm
LOCATION: Danner Hall

Contact Merry Hass at 538-2600 or
mhass@spxcatholic.org.



Parish Life

ANDY REBOLLAR

arebollar@spxcatholic.org

COFFEE & DONUTS: Join us in Danner Hall after the Sunday Masses today for coffee and donuts! Our next coffee and donut date is the Feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6; St. Nicholas will be making a special appearance.

POTENTIAL ST. PIUS X PRE-CANA COUPLES: Next year, the Crossroads parishes will host our own Pre-Cana retreat for couples looking to be married in the Church. We are looking for married couples who might be interested in being a part of this ministry. You do not have to have a perfect marriage...we are looking for real couples that would be willing to share their experiences (ups and downs) with engaged couples. If this sounds interesting or intriguing contact me at 532-9344 or via email.

50+ ADVENT PARTY will be Friday, Dec. 11 at 11:45am and will feature singers from the Grandville High School Choir; more details to follow.

BOOK FRIDAY IS BACK: Why fight department store lines when you can spend a few hours helping the parish switch over our song books? We're looking for help cleaning covers and getting out the 2016 song books on **Friday, Nov. 27 from 9-11am**. It's an easy way to offer some of your time and meet others. We can take helpers of (almost) all ages. Contact the parish office at 532-9344 if you have questions or just show up!

Mass Assignments for Nov. 28 & 29

LECTORS: Please pick up your new workbook for 2016 Liturgical Year (which begins next weekend) in the Library.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SPECIAL MASSES: Sign up in the back of church for our Thanksgiving Mass, Immaculate Conception of Mary, and Christmas Masses.

CURRENT GREETERS (or those interested in joining the Greeter Ministry)...you are asked to attend one of our upcoming training meetings on Dec. 5 & 6 following Mass in the back of church. Please choose a meeting that best fits your schedule. Questions, call Connie Graham at 295-8152.

Mass Coord.	5:30pm	8:30am	10:30am
	John Chrusciel	Tony & Sandy Grandy	Frank Cegelis
Greeters	Madison & Nicole Tullio	Sue & Paul VanGessel	Brian & Denise Kolesar
Servers	Carter Brink Mckenna Brink Amy Charboneau	Abby Miars Courtney Miars Olivia Miars	A.J. Burdick Jonathan Fuller Noah Kelly
Eucharistic Ministers	Nancy Benson Dianne Cartwright Heather Dabbous Debbie Jones Ann Maddox Barbara Sawicki Paula Seguna Andrew Smith Volunteer Needed	Dave Bristol Mary Bristol Judy Clinger Brenda Grandy Mike Grandy Ellen Halfmann Tara Pankratz Barry Waters Dave Zabier	Elaine Albrecht Merry Hass Linda Hinds Sophia Hopkins Donna Huyge Chris Koetsier Ana Loew Pat Milanowski Kris Phillips Debbie Shereda Tom Shereda Paul Sundstrom Kim Wohlfel
Lector	John O'Brien Frank Cegelis	Brian Courtade Christy McMeans	Dave Valko Dana Fillmore
LWC			N/A
	Ushers: Team A	Ushers: Team B	Ushers: Team H

real people + real presence

Growing in Christ

Weekly Stewardship Report

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: The exchange between Jesus and Pilate in today's Gospel is, arguably, the most important exchange in all of literature. Pilate asks Jesus: "What have you done?" Jesus replies that he testifies to the truth. In the second reading, we are reminded of the essence of that truth: Christ, ruler of all, loves us, liberates us from the bonds of sin, makes us a new kingdom. As we approach the Advent season, this week would be a good time to reflect on the questions: What have we done in our daily lives, in our actions, words, private prayer, and in our interaction with others to testify that Jesus is Lord? *from the November 2015 ICSC Catholic Stewardship e-bulletin*

Time and Talent

MASS ATTENDANCE

Nov. 14 & 15: 5:30pm— 393 | 8:30am— 282 | 10:30am—479

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS AND GIFTS are given to those in need from St. Pius X and St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Wyoming. Non-perishable food items are needed by **Dec. 16**. Volunteers can help out with wrapping (Dec. 14@9am); packing food (Dec. 17@9:30am); delivering gifts to St. Joseph the Worker (Dec. 18@9:30am). Contact Marjorie at 532-9344 or mflores@spxcatholic.org if you'd like to help.

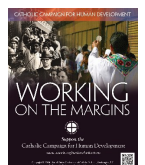
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION are needed for Brookcrest on the fourth Sunday of every month and Georgetown/Cambridge on the third Sunday following the 8:30am Mass. Please contact Marjorie Flores at 532-9344 x106 or mflores@spxcatholic.org. Training is provided.

THANK YOU everyone who donated non-perishable food items to the food pantry for the Thanksgiving Baskets! Your generosity is a gift for which we as a parish and the families who received baskets are very thankful!

Treasure

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

is this weekend in parishes across the country. This collection is the primary source of funding for CCHD's anti-poverty grants and education programs. CCHD helps people living in poverty join together to identify problems, make decisions, and find solutions to improve their lives and neighborhoods. May our experience of God's love continue to open our heart to those in need and move us to action.



DONATIONS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES: Catholic Relief Services is partnering with churches in Greece, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Serbia, providing essential needs like food, shelter, and medical care. Donations are being accepted at dioceseofgrandrapids.org. Please remember those who are suffering in your prayers.

PARISH SUPPORT	Last week	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date
Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Week 120/52	11/14&11/15		
Adult Envelopes	\$ 21,813	\$ 248,636	\$260,349
Electronic Giving spxcatholic.org	\$ 2,890	\$ 85,160	\$ 77,142
Youth Envelopes	\$ 12	\$ 68	\$ 196
Loose Offerings	\$ 645	\$ 12,299	\$ 11,156
Total Contributions	\$ 25,360	\$ 346,163	\$348,843
Budget Overage/(Shortfall)	\$ 7,780	\$ (15,282)	
OTHER GIVING			
Master's Mission	\$ 1,170	\$ 13,555	\$ 13,852

St. Pius X has 1,009 registered households. Last week, 319 contributed either by using an offertory envelope or electronically. Every gift is gratefully received as a sacrifice united with Christ's own self-offering in the Eucharist to share God's love.

Our prayer list for healing

Please continue to pray for the following and all the sick in our Parish, their families and friends, those hospitalized and home-bound, and those in care facilities. To be included on the Prayer Chain (separate from this bulletin list), call Jason George at (231) 736-7487.

Jenny Walsh	Gerry Dekkinga	Bob Brock	Frank Cegelis
Kenneth Schumacher	Mary LaSarge	Jennifer Cook	Erika Yonker
Kelsey Gibson	Joe Tuszyński	Bernard Trost	Marie Nevins
Pat Deuling	Catherine Cesare	Diane & Mary Prindle	Andy Wierzbicki
Vera Bartz	Henry Visscher	Betty DiTrapani	Claudia Shaub
Beverwyk Family	Joe & Margaret Grandy	Rose Reilly	Judy Wojtas
Anthony McAndrew	M. Forrester	Laurie Bialik	Sally Thome
Nicole Tullio	Marty Schumacker	Margaret Harman	Pat Chichester
Terry Freybler	John Stoddard	Carol Guffy	Bob & Holly Ann Ott
Pat & Nancy Krupp	Derek Bull	Shannon Olman	Diane Austin
Rich Hubbard	Stephen Meurer	Dorothy Rennager	Linda Meagher
Kathy Maslowski	Scott Holzgen	Patrick Bartz	Ilene Topolinski
Deb Russo	Tom & Becky Hoffmann	Ellen O'Toole	Sarah Johnson
Catherine Owens	Mike Connell	Edward Kaminski	Justin Vriezema
Jeff Zylstra	Mary Jebb	Markell Barnhart	Josina Galaszewski
Skylar Martin	Mary Beth Jensen	Pat Rummer	Robert Ryzanca
Cindy Cole	Megan Reynolds	Lloyd & Caroline Skaya	Mary Benson-Slosser
Jill Moyer	Diane Rudnik	Leo Raap	Lois McCarty
Nell Wouters	Lorraine Lutker	Bernita Stegewans	Martha VanDyke
Brianne Bassett	Tucker Potter	Roberta Hagen	Jackson & Lauren Peters
Tom Wojtas	Winnie Kulaga	Jonathan Kolenda	Tracy Woodruff
Kerry Deboer	Noah Ziegler	Mike Sartorius	John Blanchard
Sr. Jean Marie Wojtas	Pat DeJong	Norm Pokora	Linda Wood
Terri Bernott	Clara Jo Braybrook	Barbara Barney	Zachary Matzke
Ann Bery	Jane Voss	Chuck Seguna	Pam Willemstein
George & Virginia Bieber	Gisela Foote	Judy Perrin	Bob Bagin
Matt Rich	Judy Clinger	Allen Mulligan	Karen Bourassa
Christina Geldersma	Donna Waters	Sandy Ressel	Robert Schab
Deb Finnigan	Jim & Mary Norcutt	Charles Frodl	Ann Partridge

CONGRATULATIONS to Christopher & Jennifer Avery and Connor & Madelyn O'Mara on the celebration of their First Communion at today's 10:30 Mass. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their faith journey.



Jennifer & Christopher Avery



Connor O'Mara



Madelyn O'Mara

Ladies Advent Night

Attention Ladies of the Parish!

Mark your Calendars!! Tuesday, Dec. 1 is Advent Night!

Take a break from baking, shopping, planning and stressing. Join us in some spiritual renewal as we begin this busy season!

This year's entertainment is Karey Bart, a talented singer, mother and missionary. She is thankful for this gift of singing that God has given her and enjoys using it to worship and honor God and bring glory to Him. It will be an inspirational evening!

If you never attended Advent Night—make this your first!

This is the last weekend for guest sign-ups. Childcare is available if requested. Space is limited so sign up early.

Any questions, contact Jennifer Lawrence 821-4502.

When choosing which businesses to patronize, please choose those who advertise in this bulletin. Their support pays for this publication.

Matthysse Kuiper DeGraff

Funeral Directors

See our ad on back page

Year of Mercy begins Dec. 8

Next Sunday, which is the First Sunday of Advent, begins a new liturgical year in the Christian calendar. This new year brings with it an almost year-long event that can offer significant impact upon believers and non-believers alike.

Last April, on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) Pope Francis announced that the Roman Catholic Church would begin an *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* on Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, and that it would continue until the Feast of Christ the King, Nov. 20, 2016.

Why mercy?

In the second paragraph of *Misericordiae Vultus (The Face of Mercy)*, the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy Pope, Francis wrote: *We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a well-spring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.* (MV, par. 2)

Why begin on Dec. 8 rather than the 1st Sunday of Advent?

This liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind. After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did

not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. And so he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love (cf. Ephesians 1:4), choosing her to be the Mother of man's Redeemer. When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. (MV, par. 3)

What impact will this have?

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that

we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow

stronger and more effective. (MV, par. 3)

On Sept. 1, 2015, Pope Francis expressed his hopes of what this year will accomplish in a letter to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. *... for all believers (this) is a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God. The Holy Father mentions making a pilgrimage to a "Door of Mercy"; of rediscovering the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; and opening our lives to the freedom, the indulgence of God's love for us. When we allow God's love and mercy to touch us through those efforts, we will be able to offer personal and corporate witness of that very same mercy to the world around us.*

**EXTRAORDINARY
JUBILEE OF MERCY**
DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



Excerpted from an article was written for the Sunday bulletin of St. Luke University Parish by Fr. Chuck Cuniff, CSP. It is used here with permission.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

**As we join hearts and hands,
giving thanks for our abundance,
we ask God to bless those
whose tables will be empty today,
especially all those children
who are hungry and afraid.**

**May they know that we
walk with them and
that they are never really alone.
We are brothers and sisters,
thankful that we are
one with each other,
one with our Creator,
one with our world.
Amen.**



