



THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

February 2016

308 South Scott Street, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624 (574) 288-6028 (fax) 288-4282 (e-mail) info@christchildsb.org

Mission Statement

The South Bend Chapter of The Christ Child Society is a not-for-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the personal service and clothing of all needy children and infants in the love and spirit of the Christ Child.

Take a Day Off Just for You Wednesday, February 24

Christ Child Day of Prayer and Reflection at Moreau Seminary on Moreau Drive

Executive Board

President:

Peg Riggs

President Elect:

Debbie Spillman

Vice President (Fundraising):

Holly Hosinski

Vice President (Membership):

Anne Choinacky

Vice President (Clothing):

Linda Wray

Recording Secretary:

Joanne Van Avermaete

Corresponding Secretary:

Jane Reed

Treasurer:

Rev. Charlie Kohlerman CSC will reflect on the "Holy Year of Mercy," the message of Pope Francis and its implications for our lives and mission to serve children in need with on the love, mercy and compassion of Christ.

Fr. Charlie spent 12 years at Fatima Retreat Center preaching retreats and parish missions. He currently serves as the Religious Superior of Our Lady of Fatima House and on the Formation Staff of Moreau Seminary.

8:30 - 2:30

Doughnuts, fruit, coffee, tea

8:30-9:15

Morning Reflection

9:30

Mass

11:00

Lunch

12:00

Reflection and Benediction

1:00-2:30

Please send reservations with your check for \$16.00 payable to The Christ Child Society, PO Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624. Price includes food, drink and the retreat. (Include any special dietary needs.)

Name(s) _____ phone _____

CALENDAR

Feb 16 Board Meeting
10:15 Dickinson Room, main SJCP
Feb 24 Day of Reflection
Feb 24 In Memoriam Mass
St. Patrick's 12:15 PM
Mar 2,9,23,30 Restock/Inventory
Center 9 am
Mar 16 Spring Mass/Luncheon
Alumni Hall/Morris In

Deadline: Wednesday, February 17

Please park in the "East Lot" off Moreau Drive (old Douglas Road) and enter through the lower level. Someone will be at the door to greet you and direct you. An elevator is available to take you to the main level.

Questions: Contact Jean Fuehrmeyer 855-3028 (fuehrmeyer@gmail.com) or Joanne VanAvermaete 291-3089 (jvanavermaete@gmail.com).

BOOK CLUB

*The Unlikely Pilgrimage
of Harold Fry*
by Rachell Joyce
February 17
Terri Slamkowski (256-2650)

Data Updates

- Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/ChristChildSB](https://www.facebook.com/ChristChildSB)
- Follow us on Twitter: @ChristChildSB
- Check us out online: www.christchildsb.org

From the President . . . Peg Riggs

"It's your outlook on life that counts. If you take yourself lightly and don't take yourself too seriously, pretty soon you can find the humor in our everyday lives. And sometimes it can be a lifesaver." Betty White

In 2016, let us all focus on the positive ... we volunteer for Christ Child for the same reason: to make a difference. Make a difference in a child's life. Make a difference for a family who cannot afford coats for their children. Make a difference for that mother who has no clothes for her newborn. Make a difference with our hands. Make a difference in our community. Make a difference in our attitude with every person, client or member who comes to the Clothing Center. Make a difference within the Christ Child Society of South Bend. Make a difference with your time, talent and treasure. Let everyone reading this MAKE A DIFFERENCE this year.

In 2015, the Clothing Center was open 22 times, 18 Wednesdays and 4 Sundays. We served 3521 children. While the Clothing Center was never very busy, we stayed consistent all year. The numbers have dropped from last year, which is a good thing - either the economy is starting to rebound, families can provide for their children, or they are getting help elsewhere. The smaller numbers mean that we can roll the unused inventory into 2016 distribution.

There are so many exciting things to look forward to in 2016:

February - 24th Day of Reflection

March - 2nd Clothing Center re-opens for volunteers to assemble Layettes of Hope and move inventory; 16th Spring Mass and Luncheon - Bishop Rhoades will preside at Mass for us again at Alumni Hall and lunch will be at the Morris Inn

April - Clothing Center continues to be open for preparation for 2016 distribution

May - 6th Derby Day; membership renewal; New Member Coffee at the Center

June - 17th 2016 Let Love Shine at the Brick

July - Let's take time to enjoy the summer!

August - Clothing Center will open on the 10th for clients, so mark your calendars!

September - Clients will be continued to be served; NCCS Convention in Atlanta

October - Fall luncheon; clothing distribution

November - clothing distribution

December - volunteer potluck; clothing distribution

While that is just a snapshot of the next 11 months, please check the newsletter, your email, and the announcements given at the Center for everything else Christ Child related.

Please note: Birthdays are no longer listed in the newsletter. (Miss the birthdays? Past newsletters are stored online at the Christ Child web page under the "newsletter" link. www.christchildsb.org.)

We are going to try something new. Watch for a new feature in the coming months.

New Clothing Buyers

Interested in how Christ Child purchases the inventory given to clients every week? Come to an information session on Wednesday, March 9, at 10 AM at the Clothing Center. Andrea Incropera will give a short presentation on what's involved and she will be available for questions.



Christ Child Society Bequests

A gift in your will (a bequest) is the most traditional way to provide significant help to carry out the mission of The Christ Child Society of South Bend, Indiana. It will provide layettes and clothing each year for thousands of needy children in our community.

Your gift in your will can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage or a part of your residuary estate. A gift can be made to the Endowment Fund or to the General Fund. For example:

Specific Bequest

"I give to The Christ Child Society, Inc. of South Bend, Indiana, Endowment Fund the sum of _____ dollars."

"I give to The Christ Child Society, Inc. of South Bend, Indiana, General Fund the sum of _____ dollars."

Percentage Bequest

"I give to The Christ Child Society, Inc. of South Bend, Indiana, Endowment Fund _____% of my estate."

"I give to The Christ Child Society, Inc. of South Bend, Indiana, General Fund _____% of my estate."

Residuary Bequest

"I give all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to The Christ Child Society, Inc. of South Bend, Indiana, Endowment Fund."

(or)

"I give all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to The Christ Child Society, Inc. of South Bend, IN, General Fund."

Deadline for March newsletter
February 16

Ann Korb (277-6443) ack339@aol.com

Let Love Shine Event Has Many New and Exciting Changes!

The Let Love Shine committee is hard at work once again this year, making some new and exciting changes to the event to ensure a wonderful fundraiser for the Christ Child Society! We hope all members look forward to supporting this very important fundraiser that is an essential part of Christ Child's ability to clothe needy children.

Let Love Shine will be Friday, June 17

Yes, this year's event will take place in the summer. We received A LOT of feedback that the fall was not ideal for many reasons. LLS was too close to our other fundraisers, such as Clothe-A-Child I and II. While LLS will be

Member Discusses Christ Child With Christ the King Parish Group

After Christ Child invited our local parish priests and their staffs to visit the Center for a tour and lunch years ago, Christ The King Parish took a great interest in the work our volunteers do for the children of our community. We are hoping other parishes might also become more involved with our work and our projects.

As a member of Christ the King Parish and Christ Child Society, Judy Kuzmich was asked to be a guest speaker at their Surviving Hearts Monthly Brunch. She felt honored to speak to them, feeling right at home as our Christ Child Society was well represented with half of the group being members of our organization. The group was impressed as Judy told them the ways we serve the children who visit our Center, and about our layettes that are sent to local hospitals, our S.U.C.C.E.E.D program at St. Adalbert School, our Layettes of Hope project with the Women's Care Center, our need for people who like to knit and crochet, and our fund raisers. She also mentioned our In Memoriam and Special Occasion cards if they wish to remember someone in a special way.

Our Christ Child Society organization will also be speaking at the Polonaise Club on March 11. Polonaise Club is a part of The Forever Learning Institute which meets at Little Flower Catholic Church. The group has a strong Polish background and invites speakers to their classes to share information of community organizations. This is a great way to let others know who we are and how Christ Child Society gives back to our community.

If you know of a group that would like to know more about The Christ Child Society, contact a board member.

Help Wanted for Let Love Shine!

The Let Love Shine co-chairs are seeking a few good women who would be willing to make a few follow up phone calls to possible underwriting businesses and individuals. We will provide the necessary information to make this job easy and manageable! Our contacts are businesses and individuals who know Christ Child and support our cause.

Would you please consider helping with this area? While this task is not anyone's favorite, it becomes so much easier if a handful of members would be willing to step up and help. Thank you for considering helping and please contact Holly Hosinski for more information (hhosinski@gmail.com, 277-4464).

closer to Derby Day, it is important to note that Derby Day is primarily intended to be a social event, not a fundraiser.

Also, we continually competed with social events that revolve around Notre Dame football weekends. We realize that no single time will suit everyone, but there are generally fewer obligations in the summer. If you are a lake family, would you consider delaying the start of your weekend at the lake just once and join us for this lovely evening?

LLS will take place at The Brick

The Brick is a unique and beautiful location overlooking the St. Joseph River in South Bend; we hope you join in our excitement to try a new venue that gives us all a fresh experience as we come together to support our beloved Christ Child Society! We will bring you more information in the coming months about the specifics of the food, entertainment, and fundraising components for this year's event.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Let Love Shine fundraising event! We are looking forward to sharing a fun, relaxing, and special evening with all of you!

Saint Joe Sponsors Shoe Drive To Support Christ Child's Children

In November the St. Joseph High School's chapter of the Future Business leaders of America organized a shoe drive to support our mission. Members advertised the shoe drive to students and staff and created boxes to be used to collect the generous donations of children's shoes and boots.



Left to right, Debbie Spillman, club moderator & Vonne Fox, and student Hannah Conner

Gifts and Memorials

The beautiful Gold Christ Child Remembrance Card is a convenient way to send donations in any amount to the Christ Child Society, as an In Memoriam or in recognition of a special occasion or accomplishment. A donation can be made in memory of deceased friend or relatives who will also be remembered in a perpetual monthly Mass. The card also makes it possible to celebrate happy occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries in the same way. When requesting a Remembrance Card, members are asked to print legibly since the names will be printed in each newsletter with the donor's name in parentheses. Extra cards are available in the office or from Joan Hardig (277-7787)

In Memoriam:

Eva Bautista (Norma Wilson/Dottie Wallace)

Harry Breske (Carol Bauer, Kay/Frank Catanzarite)

Jim Brotherson (Marcia/Tom Blum)

Barbara Caddell (Mrs. Jacob D. Mady)

Corbett/Marjorie Cannon (Jane Horning)

Elizabeth Cary (Frank/Diane James)

Alex Cholis (Irene/Anthony Panzica, Mary Jane Stanley, Darlene Heck, Theodore Poledor, Tee Miller, Bonnie Hay, Mary Ann/Bernie Randall, Ann Korb, Adele Danny, Ed/Julia Jordanich)

Frank Davis (Marcia/Tom Blum)

Jane Dukle (Tee Miller)

Dolly Gardill (Mary Ann Randall)

Kay Gibbons' sister (Marcia/Tom Blum)

Lottie Golba (Carol Bauer, Darrell/Karen Barrett)

Ron Janowzck (Irene McNulty)

Mary Jorch (Florence Duesterberg)

Henrietta Jurgonski (M/M James Keultjes)

Joe Kolo (Greg/Jean Mee, Ed/Joan Hardig)

Lorraine Lekarczyk (Joan Biltz)

Donna Leniski (Ed/Joan Hardig)

Member Survey

The Christ Child Society, at its current location at Saint Patrick's school for nearly eight years, has a lease that takes us through June of 2018. The parish has indicated that after our lease is over, they might like to do other things with the building; it is time for us to do some planning.

The logical first step is to survey of our membership concerning the likes/dislikes and needs/wants of our current clothing center, meeting space and offices. There will be particular focus on the needs of our volunteers and our clients alike. With the results, the Board of Directors and Long-Range planning committee can begin to develop a needs assessment for our organization.

Please watch your inbox for an email link to our survey. If you are a member and wish to have the survey mailed to you, please contact Mary Liddell (243-0259).

In Memoriam

Husband

Edward Grunawalt, Sr.

Son

John Zellers

Alison Liddell (Neal/Linda Cason)

Isabelle McCarthy (Ginger O'Hara)

Mac (Wilbur) McDougal (Ann Korb, Chuck/Anita Golba)

Helen McGrath (Rolande Parent, Judy

Kuzmich, Bette/Pat O'Malley, Sheila

Emge, Beth Barrett, Marjorie/John

Bycraft, Kathy/John Seidl, Jean/Jim

Fuehrmeyer, Margaret Hosinski, Jane

Horning, Peg Riggs, Joan/Ed Hardig,

Susan/David Walsh)

Jack Milchell (Ralph Brennan Family)

James O'Connor (Melanie Chapleau, Debbie/Mike Low)

Mary Lois Coquillard Pottigier (Tee Miller, Ann Korb)

Shirley Prowant (Marcia/Tom Blum)

Mary Rader (Physicians/Staff of Kalamazoo Anesthesiology)

Therese Reilly (Nancy/Jack Pycik)

Neoma Sander (Peg/Dean Riggs, Ed/Joan Hardig)

Dixie Schneeman (Marcia/Tom Blum)

Edward Sullivan (Bernard/Mary Ann Randall)

Aranka Talos (Dr John/Marilyn Toepp)

Mary Ann Vanderwall (Carol/Jim Holt)

Libbey Wasowski (Bruce/Marcia Auger)

Don Watt (Amy/Dale Patterson)

Sara Witt (Helen Diltz)

Eugene J. Wizeck Knights of Columbus 553 c/o Dr John Toepp)

Margie Yarger's mother (Louise Anella)

John Zellers (Marti/Frank Moriconi, M/M Robert K. Urick, St. Joseph Academy 1947 classmates)

Special Occasion:

Jack Balint - Recovery (Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp)

Fr. Terry Coonan - Thank you (Joe/Marie Burt)

Sister Bernadine Curoe SVM - 85th Birthday (Suzy Halloran)

Helen Diltz (Carol Bauer)

Maeve Hastings - Christmas (John J. Gregg)

James Holt - Get well (Bette/Pat O'Malley)

Rich/Tricia Kaman - 45th Wedding Anniv (Joe/Marie Burt)

Liz Keller - Birthday (Beth Reising)

Bill Killilea Renewed health (Toni/Bob Kowalski)

Diane Shields - Speedy recovery from surgery (Merrill/Janet Crull)

Ray/Shirley Sommer - 60th Anniv. (Bill/Marian Bickel)

Susan/Marty Sullivan - Marriage- Bruce/Marcia Auger)

Georgia Sweeney - health (Ed/Joan Hardig)

Barbara Zimlich - Complete recovery (Dr John/Marilyn Toepp)

Christ Child Society Guardian Angels

A special membership category was established in 1998. A one time \$1000 enrollment fee for deceased members, spouses, family and friends benefiting the Christ Child Society Endowment Fund, will insure the Society's ability to continue the future good works.



The Guardian Angels are honored with their names appearing on a plaque in the Christ Child Society office. The family of the deceased will receive an enrollment certificate. Each angel will be remembered monthly and each year at our annual Mass. A special page in our directory will list our angels annually.

Current members and spouses may pre-enroll in the program. These "angels in waiting" will be kept on a special list and officially enrolled upon their deaths.

Please refer any questions to Sheila Emge (277-6421).

Newest Angels: James Chrzan
Alma Jordanich
Anne Jordanich

Members Join ND Cheerleaders In Bagging Teddy Bears



At the Notre Dame Women's basketball team's annual Teddy Bear Toss charity event, fans are encouraged to take teddy bears or other stuffed animals to the game and at halftime toss them on the basketball court, filling it with stuffed toys. As the bears flew through the air to the floor, the Notre Dame cheerleading squad and Christ Child members were there and quickly "bagged the bears." Christ Child was one of the fortunate organizations receiving these gifts to be given to children who come to our Center for clothing, the other organization the St. Joseph Health System.

What a generous community we have and what great enthusiasm the basketball fans have for the children of our area who may not have a bear of their own to love. It took several carloads to transport all of the bags to the Center.



Thanks to Marcia and Bruce Auger, Debbie Spillman, Maureen Korros, Judy Kuzmich and all who helped with this great event.

Derby Day: Post Time Soon

The time is quickly approaching for our annual Derby Day Luncheon. Be prepared to **Win** some money at our raffle . . . **Place** yourself at the Blue Heron, Friday, May 6 . . . and **Show** off your Derby Day head wear. Our fashion show will feature clothing from On the Fringe at Bangs Salon.

St. Adalbert: Birthday Cupcakes

Last September, several Christ Child members volunteered to bake birthday cupcakes for students at St. Adalbert School. Sister Catherine announces at lunch the names of students celebrating birthdays for the month. After Sister Catherine announces their names and each birthday student receives a cupcake. The staff says the program has been very well received with a rumor that St. Adalbert priest Father Peter Pacini would like one for his birthday as well!

Gift Wrap Proceeds: All-Time High



Anne Riley works at the gift wrap Christmas eve day.

Through the generosity of Follett Higher Education and Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore, Christ Child once again staffed its gift-wrap station with excellent results. As in past years, the bookstore provided beautiful materials and Christ Child Society provided the labor in exchange for donations. Customers were very generous in their monetary donations and our participating members and their friends were also generous with their time and talent at the very busiest time of the year. Our volunteers raised \$3022.90 in nine days of their efforts, an all-time high for this annual fundraiser.

Co-chairs Cathy Matthews and Deb Low thank all those involved and ask you to consider helping during graduation gift-wrap activities in May. Information about that fundraising event will be available in the March newsletter.

Christ the King: Advent Project

In December 2015, Christ The King School selected Christ Child to be their special service project for the Advent season. The goal of this project is to teach the students the meaning of this season by preparing their hearts for the birth of Jesus. Teachers and administrators asked that families participate by donating gently used or new clothing. The response was over whelming! Thank you, Christ The King families!

A New Tradition ... Family Day!

For the first time in anyone's memory, our Center was open during Christmas break. Members and other volunteers were asked to come on the morning of December 30. Our goal was to assemble 100 layette packages that will be distributed to local hospitals this winter. In addition, there was an overflowing amount of clothing shipments that needed to be opened, sorted and repackaged for the proper stockrooms.

The request for help included the suggestion that Christ Child members bring their families with them. Once again, our members stepped up and answered our plea. Not only did they bring energetic, local adult children and grandchildren, but we were also blessed with assistance from smiling, out-of-town family that just happened to be here for the holidays. Many of these family members had never seen our facility. Tours were given to all newcomers and Christ Child members answered questions about our mission throughout the morning. The feedback was immediate, positive and heart-warming! At the end of the day, members talked excitedly about how their family members were overwhelmingly impressed with the work we do and the overall operations of our local chapter. Our members humbly told about family members that expressed appreciation for the mission of the Christ Child Society and their newfound, eye-opening admiration for the efforts of their mother, grandmother and friends.

What initially began as an unusual circumstance requiring the completion of extra work ended up as an active, extra-productive, fun-filled morning. When the morning work commenced with multiple projects throughout the building, happy conversations could be overheard everywhere. People began calling this the Christ Child Society's "Family Day." It now appears a wonderful, new tradition for the Christ Child Society of South Bend has been established!



Christ The King DeTrempe family



Barbara Mangione



Loretta Chrobot

**and more members,
families, friends . . .**



Janet Paul's daughter Linda Cain



Linda Wray



Peg Riggs, Joan Hardig



Esther Cyr



Barbie Ernsperger



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P.O. Box 1286
South Bend, Indiana 46624

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE
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SOUTH BEND, IN
Permit No. 239

Return Service Requested

Annual Mass and Spring Luncheon *Wednesday, March 16*

Mass will begin at 11 AM at Alumni Hall, Notre Dame
Bishop Kevin Rhodes, celebrant

Alumni Hall is located just north of The Morris Inn and to the left of the Circle

Luncheon Meeting at the Morris Inn at 12:00 PM
(special dietary needs available)

Parking Fee at the Inn \$5.00

Offertory Gifts: Members are asked to bring layette items to be donated to the layette department.

Name _____ Phone _____

_____ number of reservations at \$25.00 _____ total enclosed

Please send checks to Christ Child Society, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624

Reservation Deadline - March 7, 2016