

**A Message From Fr. Denny**

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is on Saturday this year, December 8. There will be only one Mass. I have scheduled it for Friday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m. There will still be our regular 8:00 a.m. Mass on Friday as well. Mary of the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States of America. Try to make it to Mass and then go to the downtown open house afterwards.

Tuesday, December 4 is the SFX School Winter Concert in Church. Come and listen to our talented kids. The whole parish is invited.

On Sunday, December 9 the Youth Group will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The general parish celebration of this Sacrament is on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. We will repeat this on Friday, December 14 at 12 noon. And remember, private confessions are always scheduled for Wednesdays from noon until 1 p.m. and on Saturdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Everyone should take advantage of this Sacrament before Christmas. If you cannot make any of these then go to one scheduled in a neighboring parish.

The SFX School children will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, December 12 at 10 a.m.

For your information, the SFX School Advisory Council is working on a policy to greatly limit the gauntlet of fundraisers that folks have to go through after some of our weekend masses. The Parish Pastoral Council will be doing the same thing. We recognize that this is too often out of control. Parishioners shouldn't have to be confronted with all of these fundraisers. We will not be eliminating all of them but we will be greatly reducing them or at least not having them in your face.

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**High School Youth Group**

**IT'S OUR PANCAKE BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2!**

**AFTER THE 8 & 10 AM MORNING MASSES AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER!**

**DELICIOUS PANCAKE TOPPINGS, SAUSAGE, COFFEE, & JUICE! JOIN US!**

High School Youth Group meets this Sunday, December 2 from 6-8pm in the John Paul II Youth Center!

Pizza & Apologetics meets this Tuesday, December 4 from 6:15-7:30pm in the John Paul II Youth Center! Join us as we continue to study various important dates and events in Church History!

A Confirmation Preparation Class will be offered for High School Teens beginning in January. Contact Liz Gengle to register your teen at 347-4133.

In Christ, Liz Gengle

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**STEWARDSHIP**

*is what I do after I say "I Believe"....*

<b>Kids Coins For Kids</b>	<b>\$ 94.21</b>
<b>Cemetery Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$ 15.00</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,905.00</b>
<b>Tuition Angel Fund</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>
<b>Endowment</b>	<b>\$ --</b>
<b>Envelopes (309)</b>	<b>\$11,837.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$ 1,630.24</b>
<b>Total Collection Last Week</b>	<b>\$15,556.45</b>

**"What return shall I make to the Lord for all he has done for me?"**

"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." says today's Gospel. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are and strive to live in readiness for His coming.

**The Giving Tree**

Dear Parish Family, with the memory of Thanksgiving in our hearts we now move into the season of Advent. As we spiritually prepare for the birth of Christ we also enjoy giving gifts to those we love. Fr. Denny's homily of last Sunday - THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING - was about LOVE. The Giving Tree of St. Francis Xavier is only one of the many ways the parishioners of this parish exemplify the Love of Christ.

Most of our referrals come from Brother Dan's Food Pantry. Tags on the tree this weekend came from interviews on Tuesday 11-27. Additional interviews will be on Tuesday 12-4; those tags will then be placed on the tree for the weekend of 12-8. As additional names come in they will be added to the Giving Tree. Please watch for additional tags. If you want to make a referral please call Judy -347-4133 - or Diane Clark - 348-7520. PLEASE HAVE ALL GIFTS IN BY MONDAY, 12-17. Gifts to be given on Tuesday, 12-18.

We ask that you only purchase the gift listed on your tag so that gifts will be distributed equally among family members. Thank you for your loving support in this act of charity.

Yours in Christ, Diane Clark and Mary Putters

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

The annual national collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious will be taken in our diocese next weekend, December 8-9, 2007. This collection aims to help defray the unfunded retirement liability facing religious institutions throughout the United States. Your contribution can help ensure that the thousands of elderly and infirm sisters, brothers and order priests who have served us so well will be adequately cared for. Please give generously.

To learn more, visit at [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org).

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## First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2007

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### *Our Sincere Thanks*

The Ralph Daly family would like to extend thanks to the parish family for their prayers, cards, flowers and donations to Hospice, St. Francis School, and the Sacramentines.

Thanks to Fr. Frank for his heart warming homily, Fr. Dennis for assisting, and Paul Fifer for leading the rosary. Many thanks to Chelle, the choir, the Luncheon Committee and everyone who donated food for the wonderful meal that was provided. God Bless you all.

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### **Holy Childhood Church - Harbor Springs Seeks**

**Director of Catechesis/Coordinator of Faith Formation**  
Holy Childhood of Jesus Church, located in beautiful Harbor Springs, seeks a Director of Catechesis/Coordinator of Faith Formation. Position requires an annual ten month, 25 hour/week commitment beginning January 1, 2008. Successful candidates will hold a BA in Religious Education, Administration, or Theology. MA in Religious Education with a minimum two years experience in faith formation/administration is preferred. Interested candidates must send curriculum vitae to:

Holy Childhood of Jesus Church  
Director of Catechesis/Faith Formation  
150 W. Main St.  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740  
Fax: 231-526-9299  
office@holychildhoodchurch.org

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### **Confirmation/First Eucharist Enrollment**

At all the Liturgies this weekend, the youth in the Confirmation Preparation Program will formally be enrolled as candidates in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Many will be preparing for the celebration of Eucharist. The names of these candidates have been posted at the church entrances. You are invited to take the name of a candidate (preferably someone you don't know) to pray for during this time of preparation. Besides the candidate's name and address, there will be a picture of the candidate so that you will be able to recognize him or her. It is helpful to visualize a person as you pray for him. Thank you for your support of these candidates. It is the entire parish that assists our youth in preparation for a sacrament as well as the formal faith formation meetings for our youth and their parents.

If the prayer card has a dove on the cover, that child is preparing for Confirmation. A dove and bread and wine indicates Confirmation and Eucharist, and a dove, bread and wine, and water indicates full initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Sr. Kathy

**Anyone who visits/takes the Eucharist to the homebound please contact the parish office with the names of those you serve. We need them by December**

**10.**

### **St. Francis Xavier School Celebrates 125 Year Anniversary**

The celebration will begin on the school's birthday, January 9, 2008. Anyone who would like to share photos or other school memorabilia during this time of celebration is asked to drop items at the school office. Please be sure they are marked with your name, address and phone number if you would like them returned.

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### **Wondering how to celebrate the season of Advent?** Come join us on Tuesday evenings in church.

We recite the rosary at 5:00 pm followed by Mass at 5:30pm. Immediately after Mass we have devotions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help in the Adoration Chapel. Won't you please join us.

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**Br. Dan's Food Pantry  
Volunteer & guest Christmas Party  
Thursday, December 6  
6:00 pm Moellering's house  
Bring a dessert or an appetizer.**



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**The Vivace School of Music** and area Church musicians will present a concert on Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 p.m. at the Emmet County Fairgrounds. Admission is a canned good or a donation which will benefit the Harbor Springs Food Pantry and Br. Dan's Food Pantry. All are invited.

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### **Ministers Still Needed**

The following openings in the Christmas/New Years Day Mass schedule for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Altar Servers need to be filled.

#### **December 24**

**5:00 pm:** 1 more Lector, & 6 Eucharistic Ministers

**10:00 pm:** 3 Eucharistic Ministers

#### **December 25**

**8:00 am:** 3 Altar Servers

**10:00 am:** 1 more Lector, 5 Eucharistic Ministers, 3 Altar Servers

#### **January 1**

**9:00 am:** All set

**11:00 am:** 1 more Lector, 6 Eucharistic Ministers

Please call Judy to volunteer.

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### **A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

We rush through our busy day, distracted by all we must do and at night we relax in the distraction of TV. Today's gospel tells us to "Be watchful and alert" because distractions prevent us from discovering the Lord's loving presence rushing through our busy day with us. Expect to find the Lord and you will.

**SCRIPTURES FOR WEEK OF December 3-9**

**8 am Mon:** Is 4:2-6; Gospel Mt 8:5-11  
*Intention: D. Mrs. Mary Nolan*

**5:30pm Tues:** Is 11:1-10; Gospel Lk 10:21-24  
*Intention: D. Frank J. Smith*

**8am Wed:** Is 25:6-10a; Gospel Mt 15:29-37  
*Intention: Judith Conti*

**8:30am Thurs:** Is 26:1-6; Gospel Mt 7:21, 24-27  
*Intention: D. Norm & Evelyn Thompson*

**8am Fri:** Is 29:17-24; Gospel Mt 9:27-31  
*Intention: D. Frank E. Smith*

**5:30pm Intention:** All Expectant Mothers

**5 pm Sat:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Gospel Lk 1:26-38  
*Intention: St. Francis Xavier Parish*

**Sun:** Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Gospel Mt 3:1-12  
*8am Intention: D. Rita Rietdorf*  
*10am Intention: D. Carla Borlemghi*  
*12noon Bay Shore: St. Francis Solanus Parish*

**St. Francis Solanus - Bay Shore**

Envelopes \$435.00  
 Loose \$286.25  
 \$721.25

**Liturgical Ministers - December 9, 2007**

Minister of the Word: Eric Kessler  
 Eucharistic Minister: Gus Sonnenberg  
 Server: Patrick Sypniewski  
 Usher: Dave Meyer  
 Offering: Sandi & Dave Meyer

*Prayer Chain: Sandi Meyer 347-6190*

**"O, Come Let Us Adore Him"**

**St. Francis Xavier Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

Adoration on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays  
 7:00 am to 10:00 pm

Entrance on South side of church (ramp side) off State St.

**LECTORS**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 8/9, 2007**

**5:00 pm** Deb Nachtrab  
**8:00 am** Kim Philliben & Bob Rasmussen  
**10:00 am** Mike LaVictoire & Tom Walenta

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 8/9, 2007**

**5:00 pm** Janet Pflughaar, Brian & Teresa George, Austin & Virginia Cole, Joanie Vargo  
**8:00 am** Ann & Larry Hendricks, Alvaro Artaza, Sylvia Studzinski, Carla Kanine, Ed Collins, Maureen McCarthy  
**10:00 am** Gary Toporek, Jim & Linda Beno, Cheryl & Dean Fleury, Emily Daniel

**GREETERS**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 8/9, 2007**

**5:00 pm** Doug & Mary Ann Caldwell & Colin, Frank & Carol Ronan, Nancy Jakab, Ellen Byerlein, Mary Jane Phelan  
**8:00 am** Roger & Joyce Clark, Lyle & Nancy Eaton, Chuck & Bonnie Farrugia, Pete & Linda Kelbel, Catherine DeVet  
**10:00 am** Ann Burek, Lisa Rust & Drew, Aleece Balchik, VandenBrink family


**ALTAR SERVERS**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 8/9, 2007**

**5:00 pm** Will Barnwell, Kelly Powers, Will Klooster  
**8:00 am** Freddie Liederbach, Connor Reed, Rochelle Seeley  
**10:00 am** Alexis Donovan, Dylan & Karla Kane

**VOCATION VIEW**

In our material-minded neighborhoods, someone must stand up to speak for our spiritual heritage. Could that be you?

 PRAYER REQUESTS	Carol Reed, Samuel Theodore Kolinski, Kerri Malloy, Carolyn Rostar, Larry Shear, Pvt. Ryan Craig, Mike Dainoviec, Jessica Kohlligian, Karen Golovich, Martha & Robert Fate, Sr., Peggy Beyers, Therese Skoczylas, Ed Kelbel, Sr., Helen Dyksterhouse, Frank & Gertrude Kline, Lois Brinkel, Mary Ketchman, Ralph Kilpatrick, Betty Riley, Casie Parker, Rose Case, Ryan McCarthy, Sarah Miller, Floyd Francis, Brian Kuebler, Jerry Brown, Laura Ilenich, Gregg Hosler, Mike Conflitti, Pat Powers, Molly Walenta, Paul Lacusta, Tom Steffel, Andrew Francis, Martin & Carol Beer, Kelli Day, Jean Haase
	All shut-ins and those in care facilities

**Persons of Ministry**

Cemetery	Don Paulus	347-2976
Prayer Chain	Margaret Pennell	347-4753
	Bea Wolf	347-2711
RespectLife Committee	Mike LaVictoire	526-1302
Greeters	Bonnie Farrugia	347-9632
Hospitality	Sally Parish	590-0949
Coffee Hours	Carol Gietzen	347-6935
	Mary Ellen Pulaski	347-4648
Newcomer's	Jim & Linda Beno	347-7926
Health Ministry	Suzanne Holguin	347-4133
Peace & Justice	Fred Liederbach	347-8646
Br. Dan's Food Pantry	Mary Moellering	347-7423



*Sponsor of the Week*  
**John P. Ternes**