



Dear Parishioners,

With Christmas Day this coming Thursday, I want to wish everyone a blessed and merry Christmas. May our Lord touch your hearts with special graces and His love and peace be yours as we celebrate His birth. Remember that the Christmas season lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, which is on **January 11, 2015**. Hence it is proper to keep our homes decorated until then. I thank Lisa Kesler, Casie Kesler, Theresa Starks, Kathy Long, and the members of our Youth Group for decorating the church for the celebration of the Christmas season.

Next Sunday, December 28, is the Solemnity of the Holy Family. It will mark the Archdiocese's commencement of various events and educational efforts that will focus on the meaning of Christian family life. This is being done in preparation for the celebration of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia at the end of September 2015 that as its theme "Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive." For information on this you can go to the archdiocesan website at www.archomaha.org/familyevents2015. Also, see the brochure from the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese that is in the bulletin. To begin this time of preparation, the first event sponsored by the Family Life Office is a concert performed by Karly Jurgensen, noted for her work with Manheim Steamroller, next **Sunday, December 28 at 12:30 p.m.**, at Holy Family Shrine, 23132 Pflug Rd., Gretna. Mass will follow the concert at **2:00 p.m.** at the Shrine. Making a pilgrimage with your family next weekend or sometime throughout the coming year is a wonderful way to observe this time of preparation.

Have a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled week.

God bless you,
Fr. Gutowski



DECEMBER 22 THRU DECEMBER 28

Monday	Val West
Tuesday	Lloyd Royal
Wednesday 8 a.m.	George & Eileen Erhart
Wednesday 5 p.m.	JoAnn Hrabek
Thursday Midnight	People of St. Joseph
Thursday 9 a.m.	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Jewel
Friday	Cindy Vasta
Saturday	Tina McDaniel
Sunday	People of St. Joseph

RE HAPPENINGS

No RE December 24 or 31. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SPRINGFIELD AT HEART

Springfield at Heart Community Committee would like to thank the Ladies Guild and Knights of Columbus for their donations to our dinner on the 13th. Great time was had by all with one of the best turnouts ever!

BLOOD DRIVE RECAP

On a damp December Day the Springfield Area Blood Drive was a success although we did not reach our goal of 40 units. We did manage to collect 38 units. As usual I want to thank all who donated and made the attempt to donate, I know this time of the year is really busy and it is hard to find time to get anything done. So thanks again for your effort. Also thanks to the Fire Department for the use of their building and all the merchants who are always willing to let us put up flyers. Please mark your calenders for February 15, 2015, the next Springfield Blood Drive. St. Joseph Knights of Columbus (Sponsors) and the Red Cross.