



Dear Parishioners,

During this Advent Season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ we remember that for Jesus to be born into our world as our Savior Mary and Joseph had to cooperate with God. As we know, they did not immediately understand God's designs and it was not always easy in carrying out God's will for them in Mary being Jesus' mother and St. Joseph His foster-father. Yet they hoped and trusted in God to work all things out even when they knew not how. This weekend we have the opportunity to support those mothers and fathers who struggle with challenges faced by a pregnancy. No matter what the circumstances in which a child is conceived, the Lord wants every child to be born into this world, but we know that some parents in society because of their fears are tempted to run away from their responsibilities of bringing their children to birth seeing abortion as the only answer to their difficulties. Knowing that there is always hope that God will find a way for us to negotiate our way through difficult circumstances, we know that abortion is never the solution but only a horrible tragedy in response to a difficult pregnancy. This weekend at the end of Mass we saw what Virtue Media from Roswell, GA is doing through well-done TV commercials to get the message of hope out, something of which that Archbishop Lucas requested that parishioners in every parish of the Archdiocese be made aware. For these commercials to be aired in the dioceses of Nebraska during the first half of 2012, an appeal is being made for prayers and monetary contributions in support of this effort, which Archbishop Lucas, as well as myself, wholeheartedly endorse. Hence a special collection will be taken up next weekend for this purpose. If you would like directly to mail your donation to Virtue Media, there are envelopes that will be available next weekend. So, pray this week about what the Lord is calling you to do in regards to this collection. Any sacrifice will be a beautiful gift to Jesus at this time of

year when we celebrate His birth as we make possible through our generosity the touching of the fearful hearts of parents in difficult situations to make the right choice of giving birth to their children. On behalf of Archbishop Lucas, I thank you in advance for your prayers and financial support that will make possible the message of hope conveyed by these commercials that will save the lives of God's precious children in the womb.

God bless,

Fr. Gutowski



MASS INTENTIONS

DEC. 5 THRU DEC. 11

Monday		Priest's Intention
Tuesday		Priest's Intention
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Priest's Intention
	6:00 p.m.	Priest's Intention
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	People of St. Joseph
	7:00 p.m.	Elsie Grubaugh
Friday		William Roth
Saturday		Joe Fibich
Sunday		People of St. Joseph

Be a Blood Donor

Springfield Community Blood Drive
 Sunday Dec. 11th
 8:00 A.M. though 1:00 P.M.
 (New Location) at the Springfield Fire Hall
 Located on South 1st Street
 (Watch for Signs).

REMEMBER...Thursday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation. Please check the Mass schedule above!

ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

"The Knights of Columbus will be conducting the Holiday Food Drive through the 11th of December. Please place your donations in the blue barrels in the entry way of the church. Your donations will help those in need in the Springfield community".

**RE HAPPENINGS**

Thursday, December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation, so instead of RE classes on Wednesday, December 7, we are having an all grades Mass at 6:00 to celebrate the Eve of the Holy Day.

Las Posadas (The Inns) is December 14 from 6-7:30 in the social hall for all first session students and their families. Parents please come and join your children this night so that you can also walk along with Mary and Joseph on their journey to find an inn. Refreshments to follow.

COOKIE WALK

The Friends of the Library are having their annual cookie walk on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Donations of cookies would be greatly appreciated. Also come and purchase your holiday cookies.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN UNBORN BABY

Week 35: I'm growing more and more hair and even my fingernails and toenails are getting longer! My lungs are also well developed.

Week 36: I weigh about six pounds and am about 20 inches long. The bigger I get, the more crowded it gets in here.

JUNIOR CHOIR

I have revised our Christmas schedule. We will be singing for the Immaculate Conception Mass on Dec. 7 at 6 p.m., so we will NOT sing on the following Sunday as originally scheduled. The Junior Choir will be singing carols in downtown Springfield on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1 - 2 p.m. and will sing for the 5 p.m. mass on Christmas Eve.

STEPHENS' CENTER

Many thanks to Bob and Suzanne Carmichael and Tim and Diane Ihry for preparing and serving the dinner at the Stephens' Center on October 17.

Also thank you to Mike and Erin Patera and family as well as Brian and Angie Patera and family who cooked and served the dinner on November 21st. Also thanks to Michelle Parr for helping cook the meal. These dinners are so very important and equally appreciated.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Saint Joseph's Knights of Columbus for braving a cold and windy morning to set up the Nativity scenes this past Saturday. Jim Amerine, Jerry Kessler, Galen Klenda, Mark Mandel, Steve Murphy, Kevin Schuster and Denny Schmidt participated.

YOUTH HELP IS NEEDED

Calling all youth or junior high volunteers: your help is needed to sort and pack food baskets for the Knights of Columbus annual food drive, on Sunday December 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Please take this opportunity to help with this worthy cause and earn service hours in the process. Depending on the number of volunteers, this should take 60-90 minutes. Contact Rick Knott at 253-8432 with questions.