

# SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 25, 2005

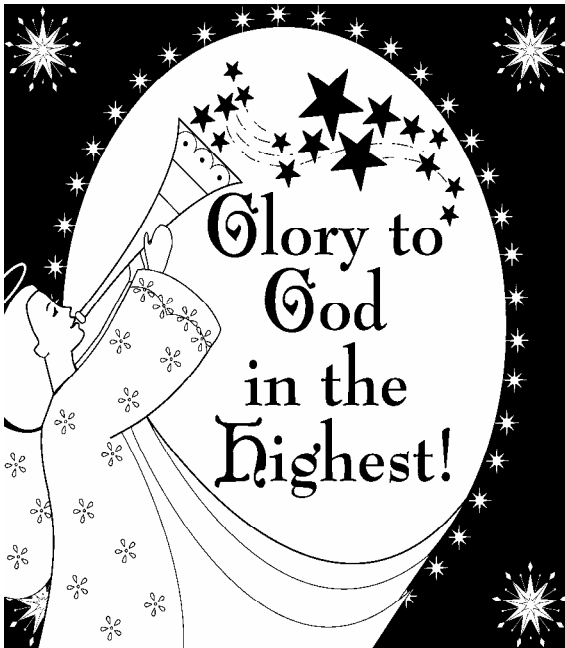
VOL. LVI 52

## THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.



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**You Are Invited To Your Cathedral**

**The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**

**For the Fourth Annual**

**Carol Sing**

**Sunday, January 1, 2006  
3:30 pm**

**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
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**Featuring  
The Cathedral Choir  
Wm. Glenn Osborne, Director**


**(Free Will Offering)**

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## CHRISTMAS

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!

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**PARISH CALENDAR**

**MASS SCHEDULE  
DECEMBER 26– JANUARY 1**

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
SUN	12/25	Sunday Eucharist No Religious Education	9:00 & 11	Church
MON	12/26	School and Parish Offices Closed		
TUES	12/27	Mass and Devotions AA Meeting	7:00 pm 5:30 pm	Chapel Conf A
WED	12/28			
THU	12/29	AA Meeting	7:00 pm	Conf B
FRI	12/30	Renew Adoration (9:30 am until 7:00 pm) School and Parish Offices Closed	7:00 am	Conf B Chapel
SAT	12/31			

**Mon** 6:30 No Early Mass  
9:00 Margaret Houlihan req. Her Husband & Children  
Mary E. Brown req. The Family  
Donald Dedrick req. His Family

**Tue** 6:30 Special Intention  
9:00 Ben Fuina req. His Sister  
Earl LaBelle (2nd Anniv) req. His Wife Anne & Family  
Bob Schumacher req. His Family  
7:00 Margaret Delaney req. Her Family  
Florence Milano req. Jim & Judy Delaney  
The Conley & Delaney Families req. The Families

**Wed** 6:30 Special Intention  
9:00 Helen Johnson req. Ralph & Rebecca Figueora  
John & Mary Elocqua req. Angela Robilotto  
Joan Gallagher Griffen req. Jane & Jim Ryan

**Thur** 6:30 Deceased Members of St. Pius X Altar Rosary  
9:00 James Patricelli req. His Family  
Rose D'Amato req. Lou Klender & Family  
Caroline Lombardi req. Barbara Ellsworth

**Fri** 6:30 Special Intention  
9:00 Sr. Mary Dennis Maloney req. M/M James Brennan  
Helen Browne req. Her Family  
Jo Anne Valente req. Sue, Al & Elizabeth Brown

**Sat** 9:00 Florence Milano req. Susan & Bob Fuller  
Henry Arnold req. Barbara & Grace DeFries  
Irene Bucci req. Tim Bucci & Family  
5:00 Vigil

**Sun** 8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12:00 Noon

**Eucharistic Ministers & Greeters - Team 2**

**SERVERS FOR DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1**

**5:00 PM** Frankie Dyer, Sarah & Mark Ferritto, Courtney Ensslin  
**8:00 AM** Rosemary & Tim Derocher, Frances & Emily Ercolano  
**10:00AM** Rachel & Philip Allen, Taylor Zelka, Teddy Burke  
**12:00PM** Nick & Alexis Coronato, Paul Dubois, Julia Franklin

SOLEMNITY OF MARY  
THE MOTHER OF GOD  
JANUARY 1, 2006  
NM 6: 22-7  
GAL 4: 4-7

**Music for Weekend of December 31 and Jan 1**  
Gathering: 74– Joy to the World  
Preparation: 699– Sing of Mary  
Communion: 104– What Child is This?  
Recessional: 95– Go Tell It on the Mountain  
Adult Choir: Of the Father's Love Begotten



Just a reminder that the Parish Offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 30th and on Monday, Jan. 1st. We wish all our parishioners many of the Lord's generous blessings throughout the new year.

**CHRISTMAS CHILDREN**  
It is good to be children sometimes,  
and never better than at Christmas.

**Laberge Group**  
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**A Call to Communal Prayer**

In order to respond more consistently with compassion and prayer beyond our Sunday commitment the names of those who are seriously ill are printed below.



- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Ann Vischer          | Marilyn Brizzell       |
| Baltus Gottschalk    | Lynn Lodge             |
| Peg Brown            | Garrett Garrity        |
| Mildred Dooley       | Myrtle Corr            |
| Rose & Joe Laiacona  | Harry Strait           |
| Peter Lennon         | Mary McGirr            |
| Betty & Frank Monroe | U. Patrick Gaetani     |
| Jeanne Fairchild     | John Szesnat           |
| Mark Farrell         | Joseph Pepe            |
| Jim & Alva Winne     | Marie Pomakoy          |
| Patricia Gordon      | Robert Campbell        |
| Nancy Pirong         | Theresa Bennett        |
| Beverly Olander      | Donna Fazzio           |
| Dorothy Larkin       | Carol Mitchell         |
| Meghan Withers       | Gertrude Koenig        |
| John J. Lynch        | Rosemary Belleville    |
| Edna Wassmer         | Sr. Virginia MacHaffie |
| Laura Kerzic         | Bob Raffaele           |
| Rafael Agtarap       | Gertrude Abele         |
| Christopher Arthur   | Adelaide Foreman       |
| Lucy Laver           |                        |
| Josephine McQuade    |                        |
- \*\*\*\*\*



School Classes for the month of January are Jan. 8 #12, Jan. 22 # 13 and Jan. 29 # 14.

**Teacher's Meeting:** Our next teachers meeting will be on January 8th at 8:00 am in the Faculty Lunch Room.

**First Reconciliation:** Our parents meeting for First Reconciliation will be on Tuesday, January 10 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the Parish Center. This meeting is for parents in St. Pius X School and Sunday School Program who have children preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. One parent should be present for each child. Informational packets will be handed out and parents will be choosing Mass times for First Communion. Fr. Farano will be giving a presentation on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Progress Report #1 for our Sunday School Program will be handed out on January 22. Parents, please sign the report and return it to your child's teacher by Feb. 12. Thank you.

Wishing all our families a most blessed and joyous Christmas Season, and may the New Year be a time of renewed peace and togetherness for all of us!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Happy Christmas Birthday to our own Katie G.  
\*\*\*\*\*

*Merry Christmas*

The faculty, staff and students of St. Pius X Parish School would like to extend everyone their warmest Christmas wishes. This Christmas we pray that He will bless you and yours with everything good and that His love will always light your way. Our best wishes too for a healthy and peaceful New Year.

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Shop at our Parish Literature Sales racks in the main and side foyers. The newspapers and magazines keep us updated on church news and views. There are inexpensive books for children and Bibles fit for any occasion. Stop by and keep yourself educated in faith.

St. Pius X Parish School  
Save the Date!

**February  
Fiesta**

**"A Winter's Night Out"**  
Saturday, February 11, 2006

Annual Dinner and Auction  
Wolferts Roost Country Club

If you have an item or service you would like to contribute or are interested in a sponsorship gift, please call Bill and Dawn Schaefer at 463-5800.

## PASTORAL CARE NEWS

*“I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.’ From this man’s descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus.”*

+ From the family of David, Christ came to us. The Hebrew people waited generations for *the Word to become flesh and make his dwelling among us*. Yet their waiting prepared them for the Christ. They knew they needed a Savior, a Messiah. However some are still waiting ... for they did not recognize God’s presence among them.

For us our Advent wait for Christmas is only a few short days. Was it long enough? Did your preparations help you to recognize that you too needed a Savior? Have you realized that it is Jesus alone who can meet your every need? Is your heart ready to receive Him as your Christmas gift? Will you open your heart to your Savior? Will you let Him make His dwelling in you? That is the greatest Christmas gift!

At Eucharist today, embrace your Savior and welcome Him – cradle Him in the manger of your heart. He longs to be there at the center of your life. Oh what an unforgettable Christmas Day it will be!

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part, -  
Yet what I can give Him,  
Give my heart.

By Christina G. Rossetti

**MINISTERS OF PRAYER:** In **DECEMBER** please pray **THAT WE PROMOTE GOSPEL VALUES AND THE DIGNITY OF LIFE WITHIN THE FAMILY OF GOD.**

**GOOD NEWS:** Thank you to all who donated Christmas cards and helped with the mailings from the Pastoral Care Office. It is through you we were able to bless others with a caring touch.

### **Our Women’s Scripture Study/Faith Sharing**

Group will not meet this week on Wednesday December 28th. If you are interested in joining us on Wednesdays beginning January 11, 2006 from 10 to 11:30 AM in Conference Room B, please call the Pastoral Care Office at 462-1336.

### **At the Dominican Retreat & Conference Center:**

*“A New Year’s Evening of Reflection”* with Rev. Ken Tunny will be held Saturday December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 from 7:30 PM to 12:30 AM. Cost \$25.

*“Survival to Joy”*, a weekend retreat for Women Concerned with Alcoholism with Rosemary Saville, MSW, CASAC, will be held January 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Cost: \$180 (Seniors:\$165). For more information and to register call 393-4169.

**Seniors: Are you confused about the Part D of the Prescription Drug Plan?** Would you like more information? Check out the bulletin board at the Main Entrance. Call the Colonie Senior Network at 459-5051 for information. Or visit [www.colonie.org/csn](http://www.colonie.org/csn).

**Post Abortion Bereavement Group** – Six Consecutive Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 PM at St. Peter’s Hospital. This group is for parents who have terminated a pregnancy for medical or genetic reasons and is designed to assist them in dealing with feelings of loss, grief, guilt and readjustment and the impact such a decision has on significant relationships. There is no fee but pre-registration is required. Call Maureen Cavanagh RN, MS at 525-1872 for more information and to register.

**Pastoral Care Services:** Your loved one is living in an area nursing home and you are wondering who is taking care of his/her spiritual needs. Check out the diocesan website, [www.rcda.org](http://www.rcda.org). Click on “Links”, then click on “Adult Facilities”, followed by the county he/she is living in and select the facility.

### ***Maria College presents Bereavement Courses:***

Traumatic Grief and Crisis Intervention – Jan 7-8  
Spirituality and Ritual -Weekends Jan. thru Mar.  
Children and Death – Mon Eves. beginning Jan.9  
Support Groups – Wed. Eves. Beginning Jan. 11  
Healing Grief thru the Arts – 4 Tues. Jan. 10-31  
Disenfranchised Grief – Thurs. in March

**For more information call Sr. Jean Roche at 438-3111 Ext. 233.**

*The best gift isn’t found in a box ...*

*but in the heart of each person that you meet.*

**NEEDED** from January to the end of April: Co-facilitators to lead a Rosary and Communion Service on Mondays at 1:30 PM at the Atria. The commitment is from 1:15 to 2:15 PM. Call Jeanne Pitkin at 462-1336 to volunteer.

**NEEDED:** Eucharistic Ministers to our homebound parishioners especially during the winter months. Call Jeanne Pitkin at 462-1336.

WE ARE SEEKING THE NAMES AND WHEREABOUTS OF PARISHIONERS WHO ARE SICK, OR HOMEBOUND, OR NOW LIVING IN ADULT RESIDENCES OR NURSING HOMES. We are unaware of numerous parishioners who are sick, homebound, or living in adult residences or nursing homes because of their changing health conditions. Please let the Pastoral Care Office know if a family member is living in one of these facilities or is no longer able to gather with us at the weekend liturgy. We want to keep in touch. Your help will keep us informed so we can be supportive during their illnesses and declining health. Call 462-1336. Thank You!



Coordinator: Brian Evers Phone: 462-1336  
E-Mail: spxyouth@hotmail.com

**Merry Christmas and A Blessed New Year**

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*“Children Learn What They Live.”*

**St. Pius X School Announces Open House**

New Year’s Greetings! St. Pius X School will hold its OPEN HOUSE for prospective families on Sunday, January 29th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Snow date Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>). Please invite your friends and neighbors to see our parish school and meet our dedicated faculty and staff.

The families who become a part of our school and prayer community through your invitation will thank you for the difference it makes in their child’s life.

For more information about our school please call us at 465-4539, email us at stpiusxschool@nycap.rr.com, or visit our website at stpiusx.nycap.rr.com.

Yours in Christ,

Dennis Mullahy  
Principal

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This letter was sent to our Principal Mr. Mullahy.

Sacred Heart Parish Outreach  
November 2005

Dear Mr. Mullahy, Students, and Faculty of St. Pius X School

Thank you for the wonderful collection of food. We are most grateful for the expression of generosity shown by the St. Pius School community especially during a year of so many requests to assist with the terrible natural disasters in our country and beyond.

We will be assisting more than 70 families for the month of November. Know that because of your generosity many of those less fortunate will enjoy a much happier Thanksgiving. I believe you will too.

God’s continued blessings be yours.  
Sister Sara Kirsch, CSJ, Director of Outreach

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

An old joke asks, “What time is Midnight Mass?” The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of “midnight” predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as “The Shepherds’ Mass,” and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus’ birth to focus on the key to the day’s celebration: John the Evangelist’s majestic theology of Christ’s identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet, there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you’re officially late!

The Sacred Heart Food Pantry collection for November provided food for 68 Families. 98 Adults, 105 Children, and 21 Seniors for a total of 224 individuals.

The Friendship Table served 314 Individuals a total of 390 meals. They served 101 Adults, 9 children, and 204 Seniors. They had 14 volunteers work a total of 63 Hours.

**Need To Have Your Taxes Done?**

Let Catholic Charities Assist You with Your 2005 Tax Return And See If You Qualify for the EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC) Volunteers will prepare your tax returns and determine if you are eligible for the EITC. Combined household income not to exceed \$39,000. You may receive a significant refund if you take advantage of this service. Volunteers will prepare 1040A and 1040EZ forms in the months of February and March on select evenings, by appointment only.

For any further information on Tax Assistance. Please call 518-453-6650.

You will need:

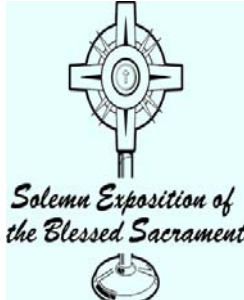
- ◆ Original Social Security cards for you and all your dependents
- ◆ Last year’s tax return
- ◆ All W-2 forms
- ◆ All 1099 forms from all employers
- ◆ Voided check if you desire a direct deposit into your checking account
- ◆ Savings account routing number if you wish to deposit directly into your savings account.

Date: Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 14, 28 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Feb. 6, 13, 27, 28 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Place: Pastoral Center 40 North Main Ave. Albany, NY.

“The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven...”

Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta



You are invited to spend time with Our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration every Friday from 9:30 am to 7:00 p.m. in the St. Pius X Parish Chapel. Contact Peter Ranalli @ 482-9087 or Margaret Purcell @ 453-9302 for more information.

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**St Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry**, 40 North Main Ave. Albany, NY, offers master's degrees and professional certificates in several areas. For descriptive materials call 453-6760 or e-mail [stbernards@rcda.org](mailto:stbernards@rcda.org).

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Amidst the gifts you might receive during this season, have you considered the God-given gifts within you, and how God might be calling you to use those gifts? Is it possible that your gifts might lead you to the priesthood or religious life? Please pray about it, and if you are interested in more information, contact Fr. James Walsh @ 518-312-9397 or by e-mail: [jjwalshie@aol.com](mailto:jjwalshie@aol.com) OR Sister Rosemary Cuneo, C.R. @ 518-674-3818 or by e-mail : [rosemary.cuneo@rcda.org](mailto:rosemary.cuneo@rcda.org). Visit us on the web: [www.AlbanyVocations.org](http://www.AlbanyVocations.org). The vocations Office is funded each year by the Bishop's Appeal.

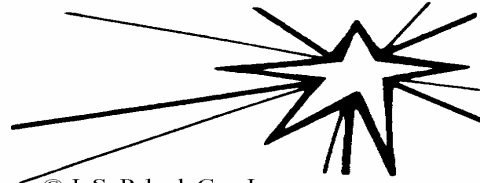
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**MERRY CHRISTMAS:** The Evangelist, our diocesan newspaper, takes a week off during the Holidays, so don't look for an issue this coming week. It will return in the New Year with 50 more issues examining many aspects of our faith. To subscribe, call Mary at 453-6688.

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## Listening to Christmas

by Alan Harris

Have you ever heard snow?  
Not the howling wind of a blizzard,  
not the crackling of snow underfoot,  
but the actual falling of snow?  
We heard it one night in Wisconsin  
quite unexpectedly  
while walking up a hill  
toward our cabin in the woods,  
a soft whisper between footsteps.  
We stopped, switched off our flashlights,  
and just listened.

All around us in the darkness  
we heard the gentle fall  
of snow on snow.

No wind, no sound  
but the snow.

Have you ever heard Christmas?  
Not the traffic noises in the city,  
not the bells and hymns and carols,  
beautiful as they are,  
not even the laughter of your children  
as they open their presents--  
but Christmas itself?

Have you been by yourself  
and just sat and listened to the silence within,  
patiently, without letting the mind  
race to the next Christmas chore?

Perhaps if you have,  
you felt the pulse of all humanity  
beating in your own heart.

Perhaps you noticed  
an out flowing of love  
for all your brothers and sisters  
on the earth,

a soft sense of Oneness  
with all that lives.

In the silence of a snowy night,  
listen intently, holding your breath,  
and you may hear snow on snow.

Serene, alone,  
undisturbed by thought,  
listen to the silence in your heart,  
and you may hear Christmas.