



By now I am sure most of us are aware that Archbishop Lucas has given the final pastoral plan for the Rural Central and Rural Southwest deaneries in our Archdiocese. You can find the document summarizing how the final plan relates to our parishes on our website if you have not yet had a chance to see it. What is going to happen? When is it going to happen? What will this all mean?

“Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God” (Isaiah 40:1). I hope I can bring you comfort by explicitly addressing two of our great fears: 1) St. Bonaventure will not become a chapel. The final plan says: “As long as feasible, maintain at least one weekend Sunday Mass in each parish location.” 2) The final plan says: “Support of Pope John XXIII school will be continued by the current six member parishes.” Since Pope John was not considered extensively in the parish planning, discussions have begun for school planning.

With those two points there is no great change. Yet, through this whole process, we have been preparing for change. Certainly, this final plan has changes that affect us. This whole planning process was necessary because of the reality of our world – declining numbers in our rural area, fewer people participating in the life of faith, less priests available. Even as Jesus came to give us comfort, he also asks us to change, he calls us to repentance and conversion. “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low” (Isaiah 40:3-4). These are images of change, of transformation. Our hearts must be transformed to allow Jesus to enter.

Some of the changes in the final plan will be external. We are used to functioning as small parish clusters: Elgin and Raeville, Neligh and Tilden, Albion and Petersburg. Knowing we will have fewer priests, these configurations had to be modified. Our deanery will only decrease by one priest, but that is because the Rural Southwest deanery will be carrying more of the burden, decreasing by a greater number of priests. In our area there will be one large cluster of Neligh, Tilden, Elgin, Raeville, and Petersburg. This cluster will be served by two priests. What does this mean for us? First, it means I will also be serving the people of St. John the Baptist in Petersburg as their pastor. When that transition occurs, the weekend Mass schedule will be affected. “All parishes are to critically review Mass attendance and schedules” in light of our entire cluster, the plan states. Gone are the days when a priest only had one parish and could provide Mass at every time we wanted it. When that schedule is determined, it will be done based on what makes sense for our actual needs, not wants. When will this happen? We don’t have exact time frames yet, but it will be one that makes sense. Aspects of the plan will begin to be implemented within the next nine months.

Further, the plan asks clustered parishes to work together to strengthen cooperation and collaboration. It will be up to us to move toward working together with joint committees, ministries, services, pastoral councils as feasible, depending on what makes sense for our situations. I envision this occurring most naturally first among Elgin, Raeville, and Petersburg, and also between Neligh and Tilden. We have some foundations for that already. There will also be discussions on what will make sense on working together among all five parishes.

I know that one of our frustrations with the very first proposal back in June was the lack of details in implementation. There were many questions that were felt inadequately answered and fears that changes would be imposed without being thought out properly. With this final plan we have been given responsibility, we have been given ownership, of the implementation process. That is the reason for a certain lack of details: we are charged with working together to determine this. In the early part of 2018 we will be assisted along the steps of implementation. This will include a framework on developing our own implementation plan which we will submit to the Archbishop. Thus we will remain accountable for following through.

“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!” I have been talking about external changes in this plan. But there also must be internal change, transformation in the way we look at things, conversion of our hearts. For a while now we have been stuck thinking about how can our parishes simply maintain ourselves, how can we simply survive. But God desires so much more than that for us. He wants us to have abundant life, he wants us to thrive.

This planning process was started as a way to transform the culture of our parishes. To consider how the Archdiocesan vision, the vision of the Church, the vision of Jesus himself can be lived out in our daily lives: that we can become one Church, parishes working together as brothers and sisters. That we will encounter Jesus in a deeper way in our own lives, becoming equipped as disciples, to know how to help our families and those we meet to also encounter Jesus. That we will look outside ourselves to how we can show mercy to those in need in our communities and beyond.

This is what gives me the most hope through all this. This plan gives us an opportunity to renew our parishes. To be renewed through a more collaborative approach to carrying out the mission of Jesus. Here we are in Advent and Christmas, the beginning of a new Church year, and we have been given a gift and opportunity to make Christ more present in our part of Nebraska. I have been speaking with the Evangelization Office who are excited to assist us with this internal or cultural transformation.

Yes, I have human fears, as I am sure you do too. For example, one concern of mine is that in this plan we are still giving individual priests more and more parishes, and if we fall into the temptation of carrying on just as we always have, without undergoing any kind of interior conversion toward Jesus' mission, then we could simply continue the decline, crushing our priests in the process. But I try to resist such thoughts. I know your goodness. I know your love for the Lord. I know that you want to help in any way you can. And I will count on each of you as we go forward: on your prayers that God will continue to guide us, on the openness of your hearts to change, on the willingness to listen to Jesus in how he may be calling you to participate in a new way.

Hear what John the Baptist has to say: "One mightier than I is coming" (Mark 1:7). Who is greater than the Mighty One himself? It is with He whom we place our lives. Jesus is mightier than anything we can ever face. "Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation" (Psalm 85:8).

Fr. Vogel

Pope John XXIII Central Advisory Board November 16, 2017

- Administrator's Report was given by Betty Getzfred.
- **Students and faculty in grades 4th through 12th picked up fallen corn the morning of November 16th. Donation will be given to the school and the students will give suggestions on how the donation will be used.
- **Winter semi-formal dance is December 2 for grades 9-12 in the KC Hall. Elgin Public School students have been invited. The cost to attend is \$5.00 and the dance is sponsored by the Student Council.
- **Dinner Theatre is Saturday, November 18 with set up the evening before. Volunteers are needed to help with the setup.
- **Grocery Sales results - the students reached the goal of \$100,000.
- Director of Advancement by Anna Meis.
- **550 Booster Club tickets were sold.
- **Twenty-two ladies volunteered to prepare 2,500 Annual Fund Drive envelopes for mailing.
- **The Pope John decal is now on the white minivan at a cost of \$475.
- **Currently working on next the Quad Lum and Evening with Friends event.
- A motion passed to approve Wolfpack football to remain 8 man with request of Class D2 Classification.
- The Wolfpack Activity Account was discussed. The board will wait to see if it is necessary to add funds to the account before our January meeting.
- Catholic Mutual Group said it was necessary to repair the sidewalk by street, remove trees for more visibility and safety of children and to repair a rubber floor mat.
- Committee Progress Report - PJ Finance Committee decided to wait until after the Deanery Pastoral Planning meeting before moving forward with any changes.
- Some of the banners in the gym need to come down in order for names to be added.

- Spencer Heying shared with the group information regarding Columbus High's in-school Tech Ed program.
 - Next Meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2018.
- Submitted by Kelly Starman, Secretary



St. Boniface MEN'S CIRCLE SCHEDULE for SNOW/ICE REMOVAL for Parish Grounds

- Mondays..... CIRCLE 1 (Arehart-Buelt)
- Tuesdays..... CIRCLE 2 (Busteed- Getzfred)
- Wednesdays..... CIRCLE 3 (Gossman-Kinney)
- Thursdays..... CIRCLE 4 (Kluthe- Payne)
- Fridays..... CIRCLE 5 (Pelster-Schrage)
- Saturdays..... CIRCLE 6 (Schueths-Zwingman)
- Sundays..... ALL CIRCLES

*Ice Melt is located **beneath** the spiral staircase
in east entrance of Church.*

**Your help on your day is very much needed
and appreciated!**

Newsletter Sponsor

Many thanks to Julie & the late Jim Jochum for sponsoring the next two months of the "Stump & Axe". They have been St. Boniface Parishioners and active for many years in our parish. Julie is a prayerline participant, Eucharistic Adorer, sings at funerals and occasionally is a daily Mass Lector. Jim passed away on June 21, 2017. They have 5 children and 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild! Many thanks for your support!

Pope John XXIII/St. Boniface Combined School Advisory Board November 16, 2017

□ Administrator's Report. Betty Getzfred reported our One Act team placed second at the NVC Conference. The Dinner Theatre will be held Saturday (November 18th). Betty asked board members to help with the set-up Friday night at 6:30. The One Act team will compete at districts on Wednesday, November 29th at Leigh.

□ The PJ students reached their grocery sales goal. The students will bowl on Wednesday the 22nd and eat lunch in Norfolk. The St. Boniface students will attend presentations given by the Edgerton Exploitorial Center and Pat Boilesen. They will need to bring sack lunches. Early dismissal for Thanksgiving, 1:00 p.m. and buses will run.

□ Sister Pat accompanied a team of students; Calli Krebs, Paige Meis, Sydney Kerkman, Wenting Yu, Logan Henn and Cole Preister to compete in UNL Math Day. The team place first in probe competition and was the runner up in the Quiz Bowl competition.

□ Father Vogel shared an update on the recent proposal for the pastoral planning: St. Boniface, St. Bonaventure and St. John the Baptist of Petersburg will be a cluster with Father Vogel serving as Pastor. Each parish will have a weekend Mass. The Mass schedule has not been determined. The parishes will be expected to assume more ownership at the parish level, and to accept and participate in the change of culture of the parish. The final deanery meeting will be held on November 29th. Father Vogel is seeking input from all parishioners prior to this meeting. On November 30th representatives from the Archdiocese and the Catholic Schools Office will meet with the administration of Pope John XXIII to gather information, data, and vision of the school to aide in the continuation of the pastoral planning. The meeting will be held at Pope John.

□ We had received an *Ignite the Faith* grant to change our present lighting to LED. Betty Getzfred shared with the board bids from three electrical companies. The board members will review the bids, do comparisons, and research the information. A decision will be made at the January board meeting.

□ Betty Getzfred presented information on LoveEd which is designed to help parents have a deeper, more meaningful conversation between themselves and children surrounding topics of love, life, sexuality, and purity. Steve and Becky Kerkman received the training to be parent facilitators. The board approved the implementation of the program. Steve, Becky, Betty Getzfred and Father Vogel will meet to discuss how to implement this. The goal is to start the sessions in January. Betty also shared a program being recommended "Theology of the Body for K-12th Grade". There will be a workshop for teachers June 13th. This a supplementary program to our present Religion curriculum.

Next Meeting: January 18th.

Submitted by Betty Getzfred

St. Boniface School Advisory Board November 16, 2017

□ Lottery Calendars – The due date for Lottery calendar sales is December 1st or sooner if sold out. As of meeting date, 885 were sold. We encourage all families to turn any checks in you may have.

□ Cargill Grant – A grant for \$4,104.75 was submitted to Cargill a couple weeks ago. If the grant is received, it will be used for BEE-bots robots for the primary classrooms and Wonderworks Dash and Dots for upper elementary. We are trying to add more stem products to the classrooms.

□ Administrator's Report was presented by Betty Getzfred. **Book fair week – Friday, November 17th is the end of the book fair. Thanks to Mrs. Stuhr and parents who helped with the book fair. We had over 85 grandparents who ate on Grandparents' Day. It was a great turn out.

**On November 22nd, the school will have a 1:00 dismissal. Elementary students need to bring sack lunch. There are performances set up for the students. Edgerton Explorit Center and Pat Boilesen, a musician from Albion will do sessions for grade school. Parents are welcome to attend. Pope John students met their goal for grocery sales, so they will go bowling and eat in Norfolk.

**Updated budget comparison report was reviewed.

□ A combined board meeting with St. Boniface and Pope John XXIII followed.

□ Next Meeting: January 18th.

BIBLE STUDY

James: Pearls for Wise Living

by Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer

St. Bonaventure Parish of Raeville will be hosting an eleven-session Bible Study. James: Pearls for Wise Living video series at the St. Bonaventure new hall beginning Sunday evening, January 7, 2018, at 6:30pm and continuing every Sunday evening until March 18. Purchasing the materials is optional for this Study. Please register ASAP by calling JoAnn Mattner, 402-386-5358, Kim Fangman, 402-386-5727, to provide your name, phone number and email address, and whether or not you want us to order the materials (\$25 per individual or couple).

This bible study offers practical guidance by applying the wisdom of James to our current lives. James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances. From past experiences, Jeff Cavins Bible Studies are NOT boring. They are unlike what you might think a Bible Study would be. You can try answering the preview questions or just come and LISTEN to the meaningful discussions and watch the videos; no pressure to participate. Let's get together and enjoy fellowship while we learn from God's word.

NOTE: Wednesday morning 9-10:30am bible study "Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother" will be offered in Elgin January 24-February 28, with sign up beginning now at the Parish Office, 402-843-2345.

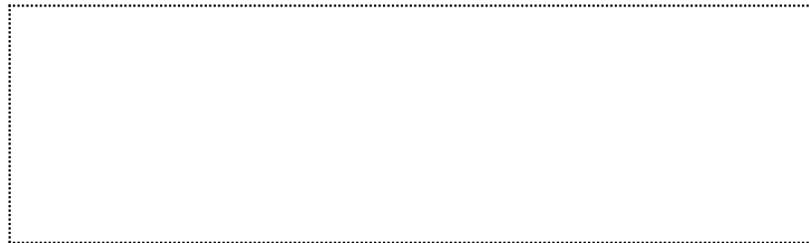


CCPJ BREAKFAST
Sunday, January 14
St. Boniface Gym
9:00 am-12:00 pm.

**St. Boniface Church
St. Bonaventure Church
PO Box B
Elgin, NE 68636**

Address Service Requested

**Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Elgin, Nebraska
Permit No. 7**



St. Boniface Calendar Lottery Winners

12-01-17	Scott & Denise Brandenburg	\$60.00
12-02-17	Loretta Zegers	\$60.00
12-03-17	Jeff & Lisa Yosten First Sun. of Advent	\$75.00
12-04-17	Betty Moser	\$60.00
12-05-17	Pat & Cheryl Veik	\$60.00
12-06-17	Gary & Mary Bartak	\$60.00
12-07-17	Les & Jan Ridder	\$60.00
12-08-17	Sara & Anthony Warnke Imm. Concept.	\$75.00
12-09-17	Audra Borer	\$60.00
12-10-17	Pat Starman	\$75.00
12-11-17	Chuck & Alice Reed	\$60.00
12-12-17	Ed & Sandy Moser	\$60.00
12-13-17	Jim & Anne Meis	\$60.00
12-14-17	Jolene Roberg	\$60.00
12-15-17	Aubrey & Brooklyn Jochum	\$60.00
12-16-17	Hudson Pelster	\$60.00
12-17-17	Dave & Marilyn Sehi Pope Francis B-Day	\$75.00
12-18-17	Jenna Lordemann	\$60.00
12-19-17	Sara Allen	\$60.00
12-20-17	Deb & Dan Baum	\$60.00
12-21-17	Kathy Beckman	\$60.00
12-22-17	Heather Dawson	\$60.00
12-23-17	Glen & Julie Preister	\$60.00
12-24-17	Randy Luettel	\$75.00
12-25-17	Anna Stuhr/Melissa Stuhr <u>CHRISTMAS</u>	1,000.00
12-26-17	Amy Baker	\$60.00
12-27-17	Pat Hruby	\$60.00
12-28-17	Phil Stuhr	\$60.00
12-29-17	Lavern & Lois Preusser	\$60.00
12-30-17	Kris Starman	\$60.00
12-31-17	Tim & Carol Kester	\$75.00



The Committee for the Continuation of Pope John presents: **"The Race Is On"** at the 18th Annual Evening With Friends on Sunday, January 28th at Elgin KC Hall
Social Hour 5 pm • Dinner 6 pm. Tickets Available after the New Year! Tickets are \$100 each and include Social Hour, Dinner, and the opportunity to win several prizes during the evening. Top prize is \$2,500. **For tickets or information contact:** Brenda Meis 402-843-5401, Anna Meis 402-843-5472, Jami Schmidt 402-679-7941 or Pope John 402-843-5325.

Will you encounter Christ in 2018?

Christian's Encounter Christ (CEC) weekends for 2018 will be held in Norfolk on the following weekends:

January 26-28, 2018 (Men's)

February 16-18, 2018 (Women's)

March 16-18, 2018 (Men's)

April 20-22, 2018 (Women's)

September 28-30, 2018 (Men's)

October 19-21, 2018 (Women's)

November 9-11, 2018 (Men's)

Nov. 30 - Dec. 2, 2018 (Women's)

Call Fr. Vogel or Michele at the Parish Office for more information.

St. Bonaventure Parish Council November 9, 2017

□ New Parish Hall: Anna Meis said she would be happy to donate her time to make a brochure for the new parish hall, as well as post information on the parish website. Information that needs to be included in the brochure was discussed. Clarissa Stuhr will give that information to Anna Meis.

□ Maintenance Related: Church flat roofs were checked by Guarantee Roofing, and only caulking and patching was needed. Ken Schmitz will ask Jerry Schrage if the caulking and patching are finished.

□ Deanery Pastoral Planning: All current parishes will be kept as corporations to support Pope John. Father Vogel will give recommendations to the Deanery level, and Archbishop will announce the final decision likely in December sometime.

□ Old Parish Hall: Items still remaining in the old parish hall were discussed. Options for the building were discussed as well.

□ Evangelization: Father Vogel talked about the importance of spreading God's word to others, and welcoming them to our faith, parish, and schools as brothers and sisters in Christ.

□ Election of Officers: After a short discussion, Craig Seier volunteered to fill the role of President. Joyce Pelster volunteered to fill the role of Vice President. Clarissa Stuhr volunteered to fill the role of Secretary.

□ Upcoming Events: St. Bonaventure Soup Supper and Quilt Raffle will be held Sunday, November 12 from 4:30-7:30. Joyce Pelster and Deb Pelster are chairs this year.

□ Other New Business:

**Security for wedding dances at the new hall are booked through a security company.

* Jerry Schrage will fulfill Fred Fangman's responsibilities of opening/closing windows in the church, and turning the heat on and off. Thank You Fred for taking care of this for so many years.

* A new Mowing Chairperson is needed for determining when the parish grounds need mowing. Ken Schmitz will inquire if Ken Bode would like to fill the position as Mowing Chair. Thank you to Fred Fangman for taking care of this prior.

* Christmas is on a Monday this year. Christmas Mass times for Raeville and Elgin were discussed. Christmas Eve Mass - 4:30 pm at Raeville, Midnight (12 am) at Elgin and 10:00 am in Elgin.

□ Next Meeting: February 27, 2018.

Submitted by Clarissa Stuhr, Secretary

St. Boniface Parish Council December 7, 2017

□ Pastoral Planning. Father Vogel reported that he will be revealing the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan for our parishes this weekend at the December 9-10 Masses.

□ Maintenance Projects.

**The church lighting updates will not start until January or February.

**The bleacher hand rails for St. Boniface Gym are still in progress and will be checked on.

□ Convent Rooms. There has been request made to turn the old chapel room in the convent (west of quilters) into a room

specifically for Grief Ministry/Bible Study, other future ministries, complete with easy chairs, big screen TV, and a more home-like feel. This would mean moving the current storage to other rooms. Also discussed was permanently closing off plumbing from a toilet/sink/shower in the old Gem club room to eliminate the sewer odor to the entire building. Members toured these rooms and the basement, and the odor was not detected at this time. However, since the Gem Club storage room was locked, Eric will check into this more and discuss with the parish office. It was suggested about approaching the Altar Society at their next meeting for a donation to help with improvements to the room for Grief Ministry, etc.

□ Snow Removal. Someone needs to call current Men's circle leaders and remind them of their day of the week for snow removal, and for them to be aware of this. Also we have activities, games, meetings, etc. in addition to mass. Sunday's are everyone's responsibility. Eric Meis will take care of this.

□ Men's Circle Leaders. Starting mid-January (same time as women's circle leaders change) the current men's assistant leaders will move up to the head leader for their circle. New men's circle assistants were chosen at this meeting and will be contacted early in January. This is done in alphabetic fashion, unless it is felt the next one in line cannot fulfill the role.

□ Spring Benefit Auction. New leadership for the Spring Benefit Auction was discussed at length. Auction is March 11, 2018. Ben Meis has been asking to find a replacement for him as he has dedicated many years of leadership to this. Some names were discussed and Matt Beckman will approach those people about possibly taking over. There is a great committee in place, just need someone to take leader role.

□ Church Replica. The beautiful church replica that was built and donated by Bill Parks was discussed, as some feel it has been stuck away, without access. The NW corner of the convent was remodeled, and double wide door was installed to get it into our climate controlled building. Some suggestions were to provide "tours" during events, such as Thanksgiving bazaar, given by Bill himself. The size of the replica limits where it will fit and where it can be placed and enjoyed. Also must be in climate controlled building, and expense of maintaining facilities is up to our parish.

□ Safety. In response to the Texas church shooting incident, the council discussed the safety of parish family at church and large events. No decisions were made and Father Vogel will discuss with Archdiocese of Omaha what their plan is, if any, going forward.

□ Next Meeting: January 10, 2018 starting with the Bazaar meeting, followed by a brief Parish Council meeting.

Submitted by Emily Borer, Acting Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

CCPJ Breakfast

Sunday, January 14

CCPJ "Evening with Friends"

Sunday, January 28

PJ Alumni Basketball Tournament

Fri./Sat. January 26-27

St. Boniface Spring Benefit Auction

March 11

Totus Tuus

June 10-15



St. Boniface Altar Society December 18, 2017

□ Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$14,204.31

Receipts: \$6,851.44

Expenses: \$4,375.55

Ending Checkbook Balance: \$16,680.20

CD Balance: \$26,745.87

□ Money for "Penny and a Prayer" was collected.

Thank You was read from the Peggy Schmitt family for the nice funeral dinner.

□ Old Business:

**Bazaar - Sandy Kallhoff gave us a recap of this year's Bazaar. She mentioned that we are having a hard time getting enough turkey and we ran out this year. There will be a Bazaar meeting on January 10th at 7:00 pm. Rotation of Circle jobs for Bazaar - was discussed and it was decided to do the rotation every 5 years instead of every three. The next rotation will be in two years, 2020.

**Continuation of the Craft Fair - After a lengthy discussion on whether or not to continue the Craft Fair. A motion passed to not to have the Craft Fair in 2018. Because of this change, the Dues letter will be revamped before it needs to be sent out after the first of the year. Motion passed to have the dues as follows, Active Members dues will be \$50, Disabled Members \$35 to \$50, Physically Able-Non Participating Members \$200.

□ New Business:

**Rural Deanery Dues need to be paid.

**March for Life - There are 14 kids going on the March for Life this year. A motion was made to give \$700.00 to help with the expense.

**Grief Ministry - Emily Borer showed everyone a room in the convent that would be cleaned up and used for the Grief Ministry Program. She also explained some of the things that they needed. She asked if the Altar Society would be willing to donate anything to this cause. After a discussion, a motion passed to have them purchase a TV that they need and we would reimburse them.

**Wake Rosary Leader - Carole Tharnish is willing to be added to the list. An updated list will be provided to Circle Leaders.

**A gift to the Christian Mothers was given from the Mel Kallhoff Estate.

□ New Altar Society Circle Assistants:

Circle 1 - Lindy Borer

Circle 2 - _____

Circle 3 - Bonnie Hoefer

Circle 4 - _____

Circle 5 - Jessie Pelster

Circle 6 - _____

□ New Altar Society Officers for 2018:

President : Connie Pelster

Vice-President: _____

Secretary: Kathy Beckman

Treasurer: Lori Beckman

Induction of the New President took place.

□ **Work List:**

Encourage spouses and children to help out when calling parishioners.

Clean Church - Circle 1 - January

Kookie Klatch- Circle 1 (January 20 - The Willows at 2 pm)

Next Funeral - Circle 3

Next Charity - Circle 2

□ Next Meeting: Monday, January 15th, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Submitted by Kathy Beckman, Secretary

Leaders/Officers Needed

God has been so overwhelmingly generous to us, even in sending his Son into our world! Following the examples of Mary and Joseph, we can respond in so many ways through our parish families. Each year St. Boniface has 18 women's circle leaders and 12 men's circle leaders, along with the officers, who lead parishioners in both the necessary work that the parish needs to do to exist, and also many good works of charity. So, when your turn comes up, or you are called to an officer job, **please join in with pride and know that what you do is not just busy work added to an already busy life.** You ARE making a difference! Sharing of our time for the good of God and others is where true fulfillment can be found.

Family Formation November 29, 2017

□ On Wednesday, November 29, our Mass intention was for the soul of Angela Meis. Todd and Melissa Heithoff Family brought up gifts. Our Mass collection was \$53.00, which goes to Seminarians in our Archdiocese.

□ Items collected for the Food Pantry: 20 lbs 3oz.

□ Classroom topic for students was *Water and Fire, (Baptism and Confirmation)*. This is also the topic Father Vogel used in his talk with the parents and adults present. If you would like to listen to Father's talk type in your browser: Fr. Kevin Vogel - YouTube, and you can find this topic along with other topic's he has recently uploaded there.

□ Student class that was held Wednesday, December 6 started with Confessions for third-sixth graders. We had a Christmas party in the convent meeting room the last 20 minutes of class time. Catechist provided bars/cookies and a drink. They also had a craft project for the students to make for their Christmas tree.

□ Next Mass/Student/Parent Session: Wednesday, January 3, 2018. Father's topic: *"The Call: Are YOU Listening?" (Vocations and Holy Orders)*.

Classroom Lesson: The Call: Are YOU Listening?

□ Students Class: Wednesday, January 10, from 5-6.

Also, January 24, in the Church basement, First Reconciliation Parent Retreat at 7:00 pm.

□ You are welcome to join us after Mass in the church basement for Father Vogel's talk. Happy New Year!!

Submitted by Cheryl Veik, Coordinator

Living Out Christmas in the New Year

How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments? Each year the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous "yes" to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance.

One way to live out the message of Christmas and follow Our Lady's example is to join 9 days for Life, a digital pilgrimage of prayer and charitable action. The U.S. Catholic bishops invite you to join thousands of Catholics nationwide from January 18- Friday, January 26. Join today at www.9daysforlife.com