





# NEWS

## St. Mary of the Nativity Parish

### *Sacrificial Giving – December 25, 2006*

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Envelopes: | \$1,846.00      |
| Offertory: | <u>\$525.93</u> |
|            | \$2,371.93      |

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Vigil Lights:                | 15.00    |
| Advertising:                 | 400.00   |
| Christmas Offering:          | 1,670.00 |
| Bless Our Priests Endowment: | 540.00   |
| Council of Catholic Women:   | 5.00     |

Thank You for Your Gift!



### *Christmas Memorials*

#### *December 2006*



*Donations were given for our Christmas flowers, plants and decorations in memory of beloved family members, relatives, and friend of our parishioners. Thank you to everyone who donated.*

John and Edna Stuntebek, Leonard Stuntebeck, Lafie and Nancy James, John, Josephine and Kenneth Dorshorst, Edwin and Olva Yelk, Renee Witkowski, Frank Kuemmel, Opal Schilling, Father Art Nikolai, Mary Annen, Joe McCarville, Charlene Roethle, Yvonne DeMars, Augie and Dottie Halberslaben, John and Clara Koskubar, Henry and Anna Marks, Albert and Lucille Ludkey, Irvin Schultz, Raymond Sahczinski, Sr., and the parents of Terry and Mary Gullickson

### *Thank You!!*

- George Hatzinger wishes to thank the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring the benefit breakfast at St. Mary's in December. George has been able to continue therapy and is making progress. He also wishes to thank all who supported him by coming to the breakfast. He appreciates everyone's prayers.
- Our thanks to all who helped to make the Christmas Masses in both parishes beautiful celebrations. To all who put in hours decorating the churches, preparing the music and assisting at the liturgies in any way – thank you very much. You helped to make the celebration of the Lord's birth very special for all of us.



# NEWS

## St. Joseph Parish

### *Sacrificial Giving – December 24, 2006*

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Envelopes: | \$1,814.00      |
| Offertory: | <u>\$189.00</u> |
|            | \$2,003.00      |

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| World Missions:           | 5.00   |
| Diocesan Services Appeal: | 75.00  |
| Christmas Offering:       | 110.00 |
| Tuition Assistance:       | 850.00 |
| Bless Our Priests:        | 355.00 |

### *Sacrificial Giving – Christmas 2006*

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Envelopes: | \$4,010.00      |
| Offertory: | <u>\$502.00</u> |
|            | \$4,512.00      |

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Religious Retirement: | 10.00    |
| Christmas Offering:   | 1,155.00 |
| Bless Our Priests:    | 185.00   |

Thank You for Your Gift!

### *Altar Sodality Meeting Cancelled*

The Altar Sodality meeting scheduled for January 2, 2007 has been cancelled.

### *Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*



The first image of a crèche can be traced to the end of the fourth century. It is found on the wall of a burial chamber of a Christian family in Rome. The crèche, or manger/nativity scene, which we know today, is associated with Saint Francis (twelfth century). One

Christmas Eve he gathered with his friars and people from the small town of Greccio, not far from Assisi. There he created a life-size depiction of the manger scene of Christ's birth. We are told that Francis received a vision of the Christ child appearing to him in the crib of this scene.

As an image of the manger scene, the crèche serves as a picture of the great mystery of the Incarnation. In a way, it is the whole mystery of the Incarnation in one image: Christ became flesh (represented by the Christ child with his parents, Mary and Joseph) and was born into the world (the crib and the manger), to call people of every race and nation (the shepherds rubbing elbows with the magi), and to unite all creation (the ox, ass, and sheep) with heaven (the star or the angel).

The *power* of the crèche is in its ability to *draw us into* this scene depicting the mystery of the Incarnation: God, in human form, entering our world, coming among us as one of us in the most vulnerable form, that of a child.

*Written by D. Todd Williamson. Copyright © 2006, Archdiocese of Chicago, Liturgy Training Publications; 1-800-933-1800; www.LTP.org*