

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Second Sunday of Advent

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## Conformed to the image of Christ



Photos by Jennifer Barton

**LeeAllen Fortin professes his obedience to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and his successors at Fortin's diaconate ordination Nov. 27 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.**

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

“**M**ay the Lord give you His peace.” This customary Franciscan greeting has taken on new significance for LeeAllen Fortin, who was ordained to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate Nov. 27.

Deacon Fortin, a native of South Dakota, initially came to Fort Wayne to discern a calling as a Franciscan friar. Although the community disbanded in 2020 and he is now preparing to serve Fort Wayne-South Bend as a diocesan priest, he continues to carry with him the peaceful, prayerful spirit of St. Francis.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades highlighted this change of seasons for Fortin. He exclaimed, “There is a rhythm in our life with key moments and events that mark



**Priests from around the diocese concelebrated the ordination. Several priests also came from Cincinnati, where Fortin is completing his priestly studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary.**

and shape us on our earthly journey. The most momentous events are those in which the mystery of communion with God who is love is manifested and communicated to us. Today is such a key event in the life of LeeAllen as he receives the gift of the sacrament of Holy Orders. God has been preparing him for this moment for many years.”

Speaking directly to Fortin, the bishop continued.

“The Lord desires that you serve Him as a deacon and eventually as a priest of His Son Jesus. Your vocation is not your personal project nor is it a simply human affair. Your spirit rejoices today not in yourself or your successful accomplishments in the seminary. Like the Blessed Virgin Mary, your spirit rejoices in God

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## Lighting the way to salvation

BY KATIE MURRAY

As November came to an end, loved ones and all the faithful departed were remembered as prayers rose that perpetual light would shine upon them. To celebrate the deceased, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne hosted the annual diocesan "Evening of Heavenly Lights" event Nov. 28, a gathering that not only celebrated the deceased, but welcomed the season of Advent.

Many gathered outside the cathedral in front of the main entrance, where the lights of the luminaria glowed along the walls of the plaza. The evening began with a prayer service led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, and attendees received a special Christmas ornament as a token reminder of what the upcoming season is all about.

"What a wonderful way to begin this holy season of Advent — to gather here in front of our beautiful Cathedral in prayer. Though it's cold out here, there is warmth in our hearts as we remember with love our faithful departed and, with the lights of the luminaria and on this evergreen tree which I will soon bless, we pray that God's perpetual light will shine upon them. We remember the words of Jesus: 'I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life,'" Bishop Rhoades said.

After he blessed the luminarias and the evergreen tree that stands out front of the cathedral, he asked Riley Farrell and James Arnold — who portrayed Mary and Joseph — to light the tree as the cathedral choir sang, "Lo How A Rose E're Blooming."

The evergreen tree symbolizes that life never ends, as portrayed in the reading from the prophet Ezekiel. "This allegory refers to the kingdom of David and the coming of a new king and king-



Photos by Jennifer Barton

**Bishop Kevin Rhoades blesses the luminaria in remembrance of deceased loved ones at the Evening of Heavenly Lights at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, praying for their souls. Luminaria were purchased in advance and the names of those honored were also placed on a tree inside the cathedral to receive continued prayers.**

dom, Jesus and His kingdom of which the Church is beginning," said Bishop Rhoades.

Pat Voe and husband, Victor, parishioners at St. Charles Borromeo of Fort Wayne, spoke of what the evening meant to them.

"I mainly came because my brother passed away last year and I also added on my mom

and dad and [Victor's] sister. This event means a lot to me because of my brother dying last year of a heart attack," she said.

Another attendee, Cecilia Aguilar-Tussey, came to the event and was excited to do so because of not being able to attend last year.

"My father passed away last year. I thought it was perfect to be able to honor him. The month of November is when we pray for all of our departed loved ones. I think it's just a beautiful ceremony."

More photos are available at [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)



Though it was a cold night, Margaret Stein came out because she felt

inspired by the meaning of the theme of the night.

"It's more spiritual [for me] and comforting. I attended last year and I just really enjoy this. I love the amount of people that come out for it and the bishop. I always enjoy listening to the bishop," said Stein.

The ceremony ended with attendees who lit luminarias for their loved ones, taking them home with them to display. There was also a donkey and two sheep present, brought by Scheumann Farms and Petting Zoo in representation of Jesus' birth. Eventgoers were able to pet and feed them.



**A young attendee feeds a mini-donkey on the cathedral grounds. Scheumann Farms and Petting Zoo brought the donkey and two sheep to the event.**



**During the event, a live tree outside the cathedral was lit by two children playing Mary and Joseph to begin the Advent season, reminding all who see it of the light of God's love and the hope for eternity.**



**DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND**

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November 11, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you may have heard, the United States Supreme Court will begin hearing oral arguments on December 1st in the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The specific question the Court will consider is whether a state may enact limits on abortion before viability, the point at which the baby is capable of living outside his or her mother's womb. This is what the Mississippi law in question did in prohibiting abortion after 15 weeks gestation, except in cases of medical emergency or severe fetal abnormality. Mississippi's law is consistent with what more than 90% of countries around the world already do.

In deliberating the *Dobbs* case, the Supreme Court will consider the correctness of its previous rulings in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. These rulings essentially legalized abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy and severely restricted the ability of states to enact legislation to protect human life in the womb and to safeguard women's health. This has made the United States an extreme outlier in abortion policy, being one of only four countries, including China and North Korea, that allows the abortion of a child at any time during a woman's pregnancy.

Given the significance of the *Dobbs* case and its potential outcome, the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities is participating in a campaign called Pray for Dobbs ([www.prayfordobbs.com](http://www.prayfordobbs.com)) which aims to unite Christians across our nation in praying and fasting for the Supreme Court justices as they deliberate this case, a decision in which is expected next June.

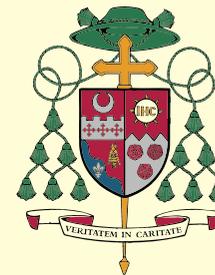
As we begin the holy season of Advent, I would like to encourage all of the Catholic faithful in our diocese to join me in participating in this prayer and fasting campaign until a decision is handed down in this case. I recommend choosing a time of day to say a prayer for this intention, or perhaps to pray the Rosary or the Divine Mercy chaplet, and to undertake some kind of fast once a week, such as skipping a meal or limiting yourself to one full meal, or fasting from something else like television or social media for that day. Fridays have long been observed as days of sacrifice in the Catholic tradition in honor of the Lord's sacrifice on Calvary, so you might consider making Fridays your day of fasting. This campaign would be beautiful to undertake as a family or with a group of friends, co-workers or classmates to help support each other in this effort on behalf of restoring the protection of the law to these least of our brothers and sisters before they are born.

May Our Lady, the Mirror of Justice, intercede for the justices of the Supreme Court as they deliberate this important case.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Kevin C. Rhoades*

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades  
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend



**Public schedule of Bishop  
Kevin C. Rhoades**

Sunday, December 5: 12 p.m. — Mass with Sacrament of Confirmation and the Rite of Reception Into Full Communion, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame  
Sunday, December 5: 3 p.m. — Blessing of Organ and Organ Concert, St. Pius X Church, Granger  
Wednesday, December 8: 5:30 p.m. — Mass, St. Joseph Church, Mishawaka  
Thursday, December 9: 12 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Community Foundation  
Friday, December 10: 10:30 a.m. — Mass, Church of Our Lady of Loretto, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame  
Saturday, December 11: 9 a.m. — Annual Mass and Breakfast for St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne



**Priest appointment**

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointment:

**Reverend Tyrell Alles, OSB**, as Parochial Vicar at St. Therese and St. Henry Parishes in Fort Wayne, effective December 1, 2021.

# HHS rescinds rule protecting faith-based foster care, adoption agencies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Nov. 18 rescinded a Trump administration rule that ensured faith-based social service agencies that provide adoption and foster care would continue receiving federal funding for services that follow their religious beliefs.

Opponents of the rule modification, put in place early this year in the waning days of President Donald Trump's term, said it allowed agencies to use religion to discriminate against potential foster parents.

But U.S. bishops praised the rule when it was implemented, saying it allowed faith-based social service providers "to continue partnering with the government to assist children in need."

In acting on the rule, HHS specifically rescinded waivers that allowed child welfare agencies in South Carolina, Texas and Michigan to not place children

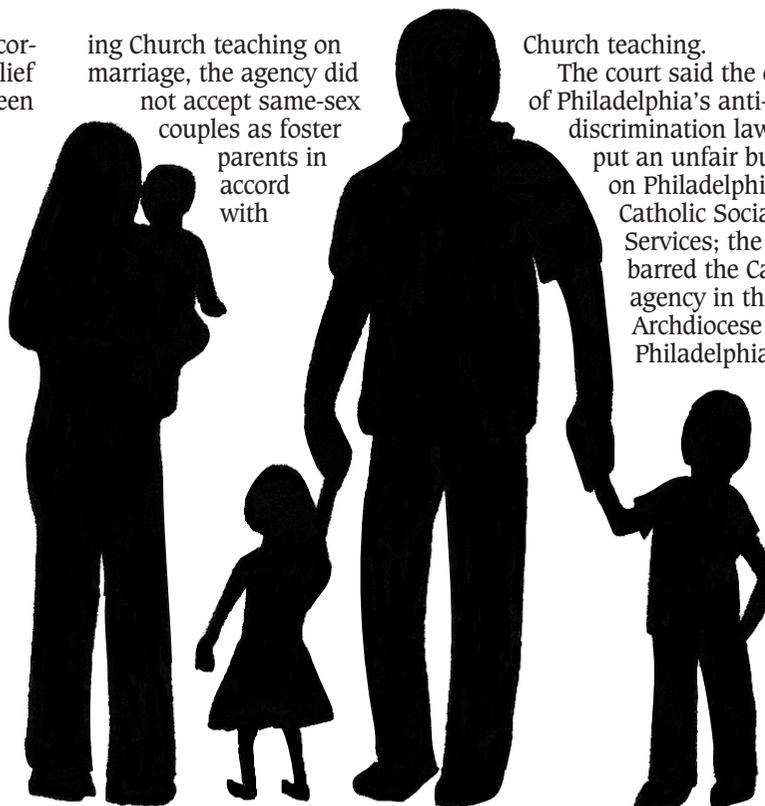
with same-sex couples in accordance with their religious belief in traditional marriage between one man and one woman.

HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said the Trump-era rule was "a blanket use of religious exemptions against any person or blank checks to allow discrimination against any persons, importantly including LGBTQ+ persons in taxpayer-funded programs."

It is not clear how his decision will square with a unanimous decision handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Fulton v. Philadelphia* over the same issue.

The court ruled in favor of a Catholic social service agency, saying it should not have been excluded from Philadelphia's foster care program because, in follow-

ing Church teaching on marriage, the agency did not accept same-sex couples as foster parents in accord with



Church teaching.

The court said the city of Philadelphia's anti-discrimination laws had put an unfair burden on Philadelphia's Catholic Social Services; the city barred the Catholic agency in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from placing any child in

foster care or with an adoptive couple because the agency would not consider placements with same-sex couples.

Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote the opinion, said the service agency "seeks only an accommodation that will allow it to continue serving the children of Philadelphia in a manner consistent with its religious beliefs; it does not seek to impose those beliefs on anyone else."

He also said the city's actions of excluding the agency burdened its "religious exercise" by giving the agency "the choice of curtailing its mission or approving relationships inconsistent with its beliefs."

# Collection helps aging sisters, brothers, priests in religious orders

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection Dec. 11-12. The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office in Washington, D.C. Proceeds help religious communities across the country to care for aging members.

Last year, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend donated \$113,523.34 to the collection. In 2021, the Congregation of Holy Cross, U.S. Province of Priests and Brothers, received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.

"I am continually heartened by the generosity of U.S. Catholics," said NRRO Executive Director Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco. "Even in difficult times, they find a way to give back to those who have tirelessly served our Church and our world."

Hundreds of U.S. religious communities face a large gap between the needs of their older members and the funds available to support them. Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests — known collectively as women and men religious — served for little to no pay. As a result, many communities now lack adequate retirement savings.

At the same time, health-care expenses continue to rise, and an increasing number of older religious require specialized services. NRRO data shows that 26,330 women and men religious in the United States are older than age 70. The total cost for their care exceeds \$1 billion annually.

To help address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious orders, Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious collection in 1988. Distributions are sent to each

eligible order's central house and provide supplemental funding for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Donations also underwrite resources that help religious communities improve eldercare and plan for long-term retirement needs.

Religious orders typically do not receive diocesan funding but rather are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the support and care of all members. While many dioceses hold separate appeals for their retired priests' fund, the once-yearly Retirement Fund for Religious collection is for members of U.S. religious orders and benefits both men and women religious.

The 2020 appeal raised \$20.7 million, and funding was distributed to 321 U.S. religious communities.

"We are blessed by countless supporters who share our mission to ensure all religious can enjoy a safe and modest retirement," said Sister Stephanie.

## Why they ask

- In 1988, Catholic bishops of the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests in religious orders.

- For most of their lives, elder religious worked for little to no pay. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.

- Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.

- Only 5% of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office are adequately funded for retirement; 40% have 25 or fewer members. Many small communities struggle to care for elder members due to a



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



lack of financial resources and personnel.

- Today, religious past age 70 outnumber religious under age 70 by nearly three to one.

- There are 26,330 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2020, the average annual cost for their care was more than \$49,000 per person; skilled care averaged \$78,000 per person.

- Since 2009, the annual cost to support senior women and

men religious has exceeded \$1 billion.

- In 2020, 71% of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office had a median age of 70 or higher.

- The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is \$7,160, whereas the average U.S. beneficiary receives \$18,530.

## How donations help

Each year, hundreds of U.S. religious communities receive financial assistance made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Communities can use this funding for immediate retirement expenses or invest it for future needs. Since the first collection, U.S. Catholics have donated \$919 million.

- Since the collection began, more than \$786 million has been distributed to support the day-to-day care of elderly sisters, broth-

ers and religious order priests. An additional \$102 million has been allocated toward self-help projects initiated by religious communities, including collaborative healthcare facilities.

- In addition to direct financial assistance, proceeds from the annual appeal underwrite educational programming, services and resources that enable religious communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs.

- Support from the Retirement Fund for Religious helps religious communities care for senior members while continuing important ministries to the People of God.

Visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) to learn more. Statistics on women and men religious were obtained from the NRRO database of participating religious institutes as of Dec. 31, 2020. Visit [usccb.org/nrro](http://usccb.org/nrro) to access a full report.

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# Speaker: Science explains laws of nature; faith tells of author

BY NATALIE HOEFER

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Bradley Gregory, associate professor of biblical studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, said today “most scientists see that science can inform faith and faith can inform science.”

But many in the secular world have lagged in that understanding, he said.

He made the remarks in a talk titled “Faith, Science and the Gift of Wonder” during the Nov. 18-20 National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

He addressed the fallacy that faith and science are incompatible. Gregory examined the history of the relationship between faith and science in the church, and how Catholics going forward can recover the traditional Church view of the compatibility of the two topics.

Gregory began his Nov. 19 address with a reading about the creation of the world in chapter 1 of the Book of Genesis.

Of course, he said, “Scripture is not a science text book. It’s an ancient text trying to communicate things about God, not chemistry or physics.”

When Genesis was written, “many people thought that the earth was an unpredictable and unsettling place,” he said. “Genesis, chapter 1, said no to that view of the world. ... For our biblical writers and early Christians, the world was a theater that unveils the goodness, the truth, the beauty of God, not in spite of its natural laws, but precisely through those natural laws.”

The growing Church continued studying the world. By the medieval era, Catholic universities included math and the sciences.

“The Church was open to science and discovering things about the natural world,” said



CNS photo/Natalie Hoefer, The Criterion

**Bradley Gregory, associate professor of biblical studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, speaks to youths in Indianapolis Nov. 19 during the National Catholic Youth Conference. He addressed the compatibility of science and faith.**

Gregory. “They believed that the natural world in its regularity and its order told them something about the goodness of God.”

So what happened? How did we get to the place we are today that so many believe that faith and science are opposites of one another?

“A couple hundred years ago, some people started thinking of God as one more character in the theater of a play of the created world,” Gregory explained. “People would look around and would find something else that made something happen, and ruled God out.”

The problem with such thinking, he said, is that “it means every time humanity advances in knowledge, God gets smaller and smaller and smaller, until eventually people think there’s no need for God. We can explain everything or will one day be able to explain everything.”

“This left many people with the impression that God is

unnecessary if we have science.”

Fortunately, he said, many theologians in the last 150 years have emphasized that science and faith are compatible.

“St. John Henry Newman said there is nothing in science that is incompatible with God,” said Gregory. “He said science tells us about the laws and how they work, and faith tells us about the author and maintainer of those laws.”

“Pope Pius XII said the scientific advances of the past 200 years have shown us a lot about the bodies we have. He said what science can’t answer for us is the meaning of life and the nature of the soul.”

St. John Paul II, he added, “gave full support to the exploration of evolutionary science and the other sciences as things that would shed light on the world

we live in.”

To “bring our hearts and imaginations back into alignment or strengthen their alignment with the traditional view of the Catholic Church,” Gregory suggested turning to Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si’.”

“The major theme of his encyclical is that for us to be right in relation with the created world, we need to recover a sense of wonder,” he said. “We need to stop seeing the world just as something we can exploit or abuse and find amazement that it’s the way God created it.”

Gregory closed with impressing upon the youths that “faith is critical to all intellectual work. All truth is God’s truth, and when you pursue it, it’s your wonder that will lead you to find God’s handiwork.”

Margaux Fellona, 18, loves

Church history. She is from Abilene, Texas, where she belongs to the U.S. Archdiocese of the Military Services.

“I think it was really interesting,” she said. “I think it’s really important that we recognize the Church’s history and continue the traditions.”

Andrea Cox, 15, of the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, said she walked away from the talk with a sense of awe for “how God made nature and how he made us, even.”

“I really appreciated the talk,” she told The Criterion, Indianapolis’ archdiocesan newspaper. “It made me think about the beauty of the earth God made for us, and it shows how much he loves us.”

*Hoefer is a staff writer at The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.*



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## Pope: Discrimination against people with disabilities must end

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church must be a home for all, especially for people with disabilities who continue to face discrimination in the world and in the Church, Pope Francis said. In a message for the Dec. 3 celebration of the U.N.'s International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the pope said that although Church teaching is clear, too many men, women and children with disabilities lack spiritual care, which is "the worst form of discrimination." "Discrimination continues to be all too present at various levels of society; it feeds on prejudice, ignorance and a culture that finds it hard to appreciate the inestimable value of each person," he wrote in the message, which was published Nov. 25. Nevertheless, he said, baptism makes all men and women "full-fledged" members of the Church "so that all of us, without exclusion or discrimination, can say: 'I am the church!'" he wrote. "The church is truly your home," the pope told people with disabilities. "We, all of us together, are the church, because Jesus chose to be our friend." The U.N. theme for the 2021 celebration of the international day is "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world."

## Former USCCB official and leading voice for Black Catholics dies at 75

BALTIMORE (CNS) — A funeral Mass was offered Nov. 23 at St. Peter Claver Church in West Baltimore for Beverly A. Carroll, a social justice advocate who spent her life raising her voice for African American Catholics in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the United States and the world. Carroll, the founding director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Black Catholics, died Nov. 13. She was 75. Bishop John H. Ricard, a former auxiliary bishop of Baltimore and current superior general of the Baltimore-based Josephites, celebrated the Mass for his friend. Carroll worked for many years with Bishop Ricard, who also is the retired bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee. "She was a great advocate for the community, for the church, for African Americans in the Church," said Josephite Father Ray P. Bomberger, pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish, to which Carroll belonged her whole life. "She was interested in the Church, the people of the Church, what was going on, (and) how we could do it better," he said. Father Bomberger praised Carroll's devotion to her Church, both in her home community and around the country, as well as her interest in education and social justice. Carroll was a lifelong parishioner of St. Peter Claver, where she

## Pope assures migrants they are in his prayers and his heart



CNS photo/Johanna Geron, Reuters

Migrants sit near a wood fire at a makeshift migrant camp at Loon Beach in Dunkirk, France, Nov. 25, the day after 27 migrants died when their dinghy deflated as they attempted to cross the English Channel. Pope Francis asked visitors in St. Peter's Square Nov. 28 to join him for a moment of silent prayer for migrants, especially those who recently drowned in the English Channel and in the Mediterranean and those who are freezing on the border of Belarus and Poland. The pope's appeal came the day after he called the Mediterranean Sea "a great cemetery" in a message to the people of Cyprus and Greece, which he will visit Dec. 2-6.

served as a corporator and parish council member.

## The lonely can find an 'ally' in St. Joseph, pope says at audience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, St. Joseph's reassuring presence is an example for Christians who are called to care for the lonely and those who struggle in their lives, Pope Francis said. In a society where relationships are constantly in flux, St. Joseph's life and example give "a clear indication of the importance of human bonds," the pope said during his weekly general audience Nov. 24. "Joseph, with his life, seems to want to tell us that we are always called to feel that we are the guardians of our brothers and sisters, the custodians of those placed close to us, of those whom the Lord entrusts to us through the circumstances of life," he said. Before the general audience, the pope went to St. Peter's Basilica to meet with

several large groups of pilgrims unable to enter the Paul VI audience hall due to their numbers, including a group led by the Vincentian Fathers who were in Rome to commemorate the feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. According to a communique released by the Vincentians, the meeting was the "culmination and the continuation" of a yearlong Italian pilgrimage with a statue of Mary the pope blessed last year to mark the 190th anniversary of the Marian apparitions to St. Catherine Labouré.

## Wisconsin parishes pray for victims after SUV plows through parade crowd

WAUKESHA, Wis. (CNS) — Church leaders and parishes offered prayers for those who died and dozens more who were injured, including a Catholic priest, church parishioners and Catholic school students, when an SUV plowed through spectators watching a Christmas parade. "Our prayers

are with the people who have been injured and killed during the tragic incident in Waukesha," Sandra Peterson, communication director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, said in a statement posted on the archdiocesan website hours after the incident occurred the evening of Nov. 21. Waukesha is about 20 miles west of Milwaukee and is in the archdiocese. "Among the injured are one of our Catholic priests, as well as multiple parishioners and Waukesha Catholic school children," Peterson said. Please join us in prayer for all those involved, their families, and those who are traumatized from witnessing the horrible scene." A post early Nov. 22 on the Facebook page of the Catholic Community of Waukesha, a group of four parishes, said church leaders were monitoring "the impact of yesterday's tragic event" and ministering to injured parishioners as well as those who attended the parade but were uninjured. "It is in our most difficult hours that we, as a community, turn to our Lord for refuge, strength and love," the post said.

## St. Albert Initiative on science and faith aimed at high school students

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Science education aimed to interest Catholic high school students can be wonderfully informal. Peter Dodson, a paleontologist at the University of Pennsylvania, introduced himself at lunch at The Catholic University of America by plopping down a resin replica of a dinosaur skull. "Dug up the original myself in northwest China!" he announced. Karin Öberg, a professor of astronomy at Harvard University, who was lecturing on cosmology and extraterrestrial life, found herself beset by questions about whether alien life exists on other planets. She took it in stride: "Maybe they're just looking at us with wonder and curiosity (and asking) 'What's wrong with you?'" she speculated. The first St. Albert Initiative, sponsored by the Society of Catholic Scientists, drew more than 100 high school students and educators. It was co-sponsored by the Science and Religion Initiative of the McGrath Institute for Church Life and the Lumen Christi Institute, with funding from the John Templeton Foundation. It is named after St. Albert the Great, bishop, scientist, philosopher, theologian, teacher, and patron saint of natural science and scientists.

## NCYC presents a positive vision of the priesthood for Catholic youths

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — "Follow me to arm-wrestle a seminarian! See if you can beat a man who receives Communion every day!" Holding a chalk board with "Arm Wrestle a Seminarian" written on it, seminarian Samuel Hansen barked his invitation while walking through the halls of the Indiana Convention Center Nov. 20, the final day of the National Catholic Youth Conference. "It was incredibly fun," said Hansen, a senior at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and a member of St. Roch Parish, both in Indianapolis. "Just walking with the sign made a lot of people laugh. I felt like a ballpark food salesman. But it energized the convention center quite a bit." In response to Hansen's hawking, a steady group of challengers gathered around a table promoting vocations to the diocesan priesthood that had earlier attracted fewer visitors when the seminararians manning it waited for NCYC participants to come to them on their own. As lighthearted and winsome as his strategy to attract attention was, Hansen saw it as following in the tradition of the saints. St. John Bosco, for example, did sleight-of-hand tricks and juggling acts for kids in his village to get them to listen to his catechesis lesson.

## Holy Cross student receives Realizing the Dream scholarship

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School Class of 2020 graduate and current Holy Cross College student Julian Garcilazo has been named this year's Realizing the Dream scholarship recipient. Garcilazo recognized Saint Joseph English teacher and Class of 2001 graduate Andrea Smolinski as the educator most influential in his decision to attend college. The Independent Colleges of Indiana recognize 30 first-generation college students from private, nonprofit colleges and universities annually for the scholarship program. Garcilazo will receive a \$3,000 scholarship award acknowledging outstanding achievement during his freshman year as he advances toward completing his bachelor's degree. In addition to Garcilazo's award, Smolinski will receive a \$1,000 grant to put toward professional development for being named an influential educator.



**JULIAN GARCILAZO**



**ANDREA SMOLINSKI**

Smolinski was also recently named the Christ the Teacher award winner from Saint Joseph High School, given annually to an educator from each school in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for personifying Jesus Christ in the classroom and consistently going above and beyond the call of duty for their students.

## Service of the Longest Night set for Dec. 18

ST. MEINRAD — Abbey Caskets, a work of St. Meinrad Archabbey, will host a Service of the Longest Night Saturday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. Central Time in the St. Meinrad Archabbey Guest House Chapel in St. Meinrad.

Many people find the holidays a challenging time. Instead of celebrating, they are struggling with grief. They miss loved ones and find that the usual traditions and bright lights serve only to heighten their struggle.

Father Adrian Burke, OSB, will lead the service with prayer and Scripture that acknowledge those who mourn and struggle with loss during the Christmas season.

Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will follow. RSVP requested, but not required, for planning. Reply to [info@abbey-caskets.com](mailto:info@abbey-caskets.com) or call (800) 987-7380 for further information.

Parking is available in the Guest House parking lot. Guests to St. Meinrad are asked to wear masks.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Barnes admitted to candidacy



Provided by Christine Bonahoom-Nix

As a first-year theologian, Andrew Barnes, a seminarian of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was admitted to candidacy for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., Friday, Nov. 19. His Mass of Candidacy was celebrated by Bishop Stephen D. Parkes, SAV, center, and concelebrated by Msgr. Andrew Baker, rector of the seminary.

## Taizé prayer service scheduled for Dec. 14

FORT WAYNE — Join the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, in person or via livestream for song, quiet contemplation and inspired readings during the ecumenical Taizé prayer service from 7-8 p.m. EST, Tuesday, Dec. 14. The 2021 theme for Taizé is "The Spirit Breathes. ..."

The service will take place in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Each month, the service takes place on the second Tuesday. Persons of all faith traditions are welcome to attend.

The hour-long service includes prayer, readings, beautiful music and time for silence and reflection.

For more information or to find the link to the livestream, go to [Taize.SistersofProvidence.org](http://Taize.SistersofProvidence.org) or call 812-535-2952.

The Sisters of Providence, a Congregation of nearly 230 women religious, with nearly 300 Providence Associates, collaborate with others to create a more just and hope-filled world through prayer, education, service and advocacy. The Sisters of Providence have their moth-

erhouse at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, located just northwest of downtown Terre Haute, which is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Saint Mother Theodore Guerin founded the Sisters of Providence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in 1840. Today, Sisters of Providence minister in 13 states, the District of Columbia and Asia through works of love, mercy and justice. More information about the Sisters of Providence and their ministries may be found at [SistersofProvidence.org](http://SistersofProvidence.org).

For more information contact Jason Moon, media relations manager, at 812-535-2810 or [jmoon@spsmw.org](mailto:jmoon@spsmw.org) or contact Maureen Dickinson, director of Advancement Services, at 812-535-2801 or [mdickinson@spsmw.org](mailto:mdickinson@spsmw.org).

## Safety education at St. Elizabeth



Provided by Lois Widner

FORT WAYNE — Guest speaker Cathie Bledsoe, a youth educator for the Indiana State Police Internet Crime against Children Task Force, Northern Territory, spoke to grades three through eight at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Fort Wayne in November about cyber safety and cyber bullying. Bledsoe speaks every year at the school and gives a presentation at an evening event for parents.

**ava's grace**

ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED

MISCARRIAGE, STILLBIRTH OR INFANT LOSS

3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH | 7:00-8:30 PM EDT

Email [leverett@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:leverett@diocesefwsb.org) for the Zoom meeting link and password

[www.diocesefwsb.org/avasgrace](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/avasgrace)

# Jesus sent out the disciples ahead of Him to be h



Photos by Jennifer Barton  
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades lays his hands on Fortin, ordaining him as a deacon.



Deacon Fortin lays prostrate at the altar of the cathedral while the congregation invokes the communion of saints in prayer.



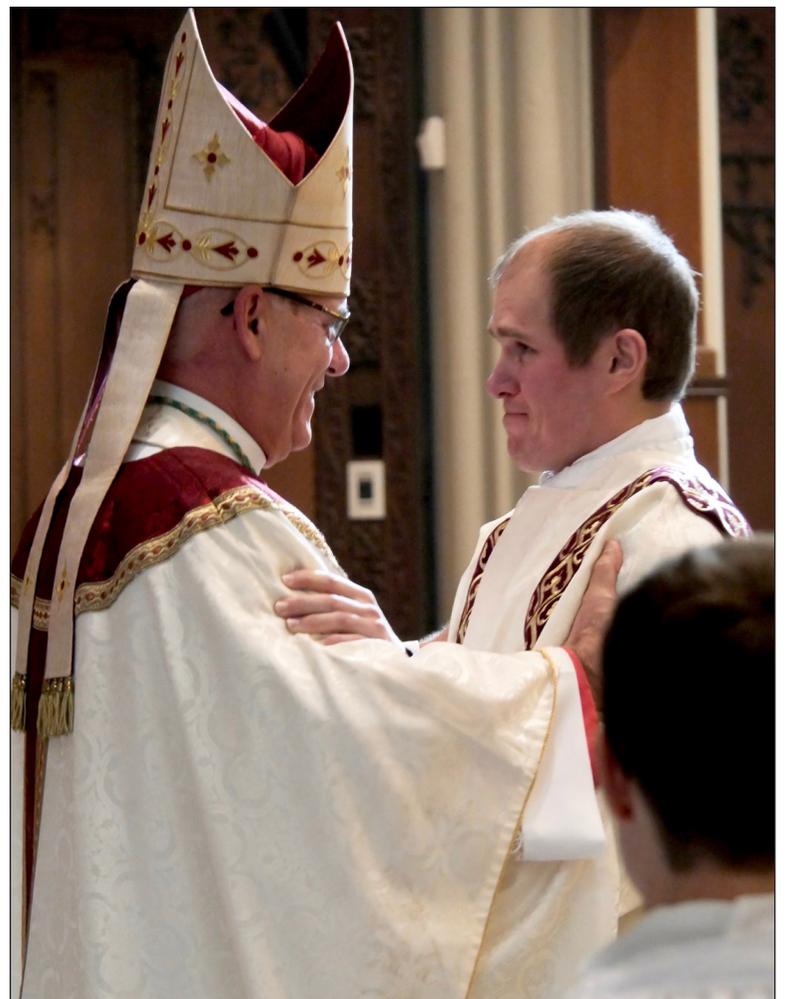
*The diaconate welcomes you!*



*Your holy service to the Lord touches so many hearts and inspires so many lives.*

*Congratulations on your Ordination to the Diaconate.*

*St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne*



Bishop Rhoades welcomes Deacon Fortin into his new life of service to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

# heralds of peace



Deacon Fortin's parents, sister, brother-in-law and nephew made the trip from South Dakota to witness his ordination to the diaconate, to which Bishop Rhoades warmly welcomed them.

## ORDINATION, from page 1

our Savior, for He has looked with kindness upon you, His lowly servant. God will touch you today when I, His instrument, lay my hands upon your head and pray over you. The Holy Spirit will come upon you and strengthen you by the gift of His sevenfold grace to carry out faithfully the work of the ministry as you are received into the order of the Diaconate and sent on mission."

As heard in the Gospel at this Mass, Jesus sent out the disciples ahead of Him to be heralds of peace, and to serve with meekness, compassion and brotherly affection. Remarking that Fortin already greets others with an expression of "peace," Bishop Rhoades emphasized that through his ordination there will be new opportunities and responsibilities for bringing Christ's healing wholeness to those who are desperately in need of consolation and renewal. This will occur liturgically as well, given the deacon's role of announcing and sharing Christ's peace in the Mass.

Having known Fortin as both a friar and seminarian for many years, the bishop shared that his Franciscan spirit is a blessing for the diocese. He stated, "We are all called to embrace the radicalism of the Gospel and the evangelical counsels according to our state in life. We are called to imitate Jesus in His poverty, chastity and obedience as part of our identity as disciples of the poor, obedient and chaste Christ. Though we don't take a vow of poverty as diocesan priests, we are still called to live a life of material simplicity and to be detached from material things.

We are called to follow the example of Christ Who, though rich, became poor out of love for us."

In references to Fortin's promises of obedience and chastity, he emphasized, "You are promising to love and serve the Church as Christ instituted it in her hierarchical structure. This demands a spirit of asceticism, not being too attached to your own preferences or your own opinion or point of view. This obedience has an important pastoral dimension since it is to be lived with constant readiness to go and serve where you are needed. You also promise to exercise your ministry for the rest of your life in the celibate state, after the example of Jesus Himself, and because of your love for Him. Through celibacy, you will cling more readily to Christ with an undivided heart and will be able to devote yourself with greater freedom to the service of God and others."

Bishop Rhoades thanked those in attendance from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, where Deacon Fortin received his formation for the diaconate and priesthood. Those in attendance included president and rector Father Anthony Brausch, professor Father Andrew Moss, Father Christopher Geiger and many classmates and friends.

One of these classmates was Jacob Lindle, a transitional deacon in the Diocese of Cincinnati, who proclaimed the Gospel at this Mass. Afterwards, Lindle shared the joy of witnessing and participating in the ordination.

"LeeAllen has been in seminary and religious formation since 2008. Knowing and seeing how much he wants to give himself to the Lord in singleness

of purpose and has been desiring this for such a long time, seeing it take place was very emotional. Being able to see the emotion on LeeAllen's face during the homily, it was clear how special his relationship is with bishop and how well he knew LeeAllen's heart and love for Mary."

Father Paolo DeGasperi, who had also been a member of the Franciscans here before his ordination to the diocesan priesthood earlier this year, likewise expressed gratitude to see his friend receive holy orders.

"LeeAllen has been through a lot, and this day meant so much to him. It was very special to see the level of familiarity he has with bishop, who has known him for so long. Bishop sees how LeeAllen's prayer life and way of living poverty are gifts to the diocese, but also knows there will be challenges as he continues to learn how to integrate these habits into his new identity and ministry. It is a joy to continue walking with him in his journey and I am very happy to have him as a brother in our diocesan clergy."

Following the ordination, Deacon Fortin gathered for a reception with friends and family at St. Andrew Church, where he led a holy hour and preached about being sent to make God known, loved, and served, as well as the importance of staying with the Lord, who stays with his people in the Eucharist.

Deacon Fortin asked for prayers that he will continue to be conformed to the image of Christ, to love with the heart of Mary Immaculate, and to serve with the humility of St. Joseph as he approaches his priestly ordination in June.

*LeeAllen,  
Welcome to the diaconate!*



*from the parish family of  
St. Charles Borromeo*

## Congratulations, Deacon LeeAllen

You have the Joy of the Gospel.  
May you be transformed by God's grace.

Parishioners and staff of  
St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel



Photos by Jennifer Barton

## A gift beyond all others

BY JENNIFER BARTON

There is an almost childlike quality to Patti Hagadorn, the sort that Jesus said is needed to enter the kingdom of heaven. In her mind, there are no strangers, only new friends. She loves ice cream cones, laughs at her own failings and talks to God throughout her day.

Even her voice sounds childlike, a soft quality like the tinkling of bells. And she thanks God for every day that she recognizes herself and family members.

Hagadorn has early onset dementia. She tells nearly everyone she meets about it and occasionally writes columns for the local papers, finding humor in her circumstances. Though she loves Christmas and has fond memories of presents she has received, no gift has ever compared to the fulfillment of her childhood wish – joining the Catholic Church.

As a child, she became fascinated with reading the Bible and all things Catholic after her father photographed the ordination of Father Richard Hire in 1970. She even thought to become a religious sister one day, but her family was Nazarene and frowned upon her interest.

“So, I was kind of a closet Bible reader when I lived at home,” she remarked.

For years afterwards, she and the love of her life, her husband Jim, attended various denominations. At the Nazarene church where they spent 20 years, Hagadorn recalled the lackadaisical way communion was approached – crackers thrown on a gold plate and grape juice tossed into glasses. She said, “I felt uncomfortable about it, and I couldn’t figure out why.”

They left the Nazarene church and church-hopped for probably

*“I can’t describe what it was like for me. It was just, ‘this is it; this is where I should have been a long time ago.’”*

— Patti Hagadorn

two years before she received the dreaded diagnosis of early onset dementia in her 50s. Patti prayed for a sign from God about where she belonged. Driving past St. Therese Parish one day, she told Jim to pull in because she was going to become Catholic.

“I don’t know what the stigma is about being Catholic, but there’s such a stigma,” Patti said of the backlash directed at her decision, even from her husband. “It was like I was leaving the Christian faith. But I wasn’t leaving the Christian faith, I was going on to something bigger and better that’s still the Christian faith, only I felt more fulfilled.” She met with Linda Thomas, the parish director of religious education at the time, who warned her that joining the Catholic Church meant more than changing her membership card.

Thomas’s most poignant memory of the Rite of Christian Initiation process was watching the four members, including Hagadorn, being confirmed by Father David Ruppert. Watching from the back of the church, Thomas said of that night, “The only thing I could see was Father Dave, and the emotion on his face. It’s one of those memories that I’ll never forget.”

Hagadorn has not forgotten it either. She recalls with perfect clarity the moment when, spontaneously, she and the three other candidates reached for each other’s hands and began weeping with joy.

“Patti is capable of such love for others. It was apparent in class, the gentle love she shared



**St. Therese parishioner Patti Hagadorn of Fort Wayne said she feels fulfilled since receiving the sacraments of initiation in the Church several years ago. The joy she radiates outshines the debilitating medical diagnosis she has received.**

throughout RCIA,” Thomas said.

After she became part of the parish, Patti continued to spread love to others around her. She became a greeter at Mass and joined the Blessing Bees ministry, bringing smiles to those who walked through the doors of St. Therese.

Her prayers also led her husband into the Church. During those early days as a Catholic, Jim dropped her off at St. Therese each Sunday for Mass and picked her back up afterward.

He insisted he would never join her in the Catholic faith. But one morning, Patti responded to an urging from the Holy Spirit and asked if he would come to Mass with her.

“He came in, he came the next Sunday, he came the Sunday after that. The next thing you know, my husband’s in RCIA. And the same thing happened to my daughter Amy,” Patti shared.

“Her faith and love for the Church is beyond what many appreciate in the gift of their faith,” Thomas commented. “Everybody should know Patti Hagadorn.”

And many people do know her. Patti has what she calls a “bad habit of picking up friends everywhere I go,” so much so that when she hosted her Christmas party, her house would be so full that some guests would have to leave in order for others to enter.

Christmas has always been special to her, but one year stands out. It involved her daughter Amy.

A car accident in the 1970s left Patti with seizure disorder, and throughout her second pregnancy, she suffered from so many seizures that she had to be hospitalized. Medical personnel expected her unborn child to be born with severe health conditions, and her doctor asked if she wanted to “cancel” her pregnancy.

“I remember crying, and I threw him out of the room,” she stated, telling him, “I love this baby, I love my little girl.”

Patti didn’t care about the

possible health effects and carried Amy Jo to term. “She was the baby God gave us.”

Born with cerebral palsy, Amy experienced severe bullying in the third grade. She became famous when, in 1993, radio station WLDE 101.7 ran a “Letters to Santa” contest in which her Christmas request of having one day without being made fun of was picked up by news outlets throughout the country.

Amy’s letter also launched discussions in schools and communities across the country about how to treat people with disabilities with greater respect. Letters and gifts poured into the Hagadorn household from people all over the country – including many celebrities – who sympathized with Amy’s plight.

The letters meant more to the family than any of the gifts, Patti said. “When you look back on it, if I had ended that pregnancy, the world wouldn’t have known her story. She wouldn’t have had an impact like she did.”

When Amy chose to come into the Catholic Church, Thomas took the time to work with her one-on-one. Patti recalls watching the two of them sitting at the table, studying Catholic books for children to help Amy understand Church teaching. Patti was so pleased that the last act that former pastor Father Ruppert performed at St. Therese was to welcome Amy into the Church.

Though her memories may fade and her mind might fail her, nothing can take away Patti’s childlike enthusiasm for Christ, particularly in the Eucharist. She said, “Once you get into the Catholic Church, this is the way every Mass should be. So reverent to God. ... The first time (receiving Communion), I can’t describe what it was like for me. It was just, ‘this is it; this is where I should have been a long time ago.’”

# Seminarians strategize for seventh Cupertino Classic

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

The University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, will host the seventh annual Cupertino Classic basketball game Monday, Dec. 27. The game comes after the 2020 installment was cancelled due to COVID-19. The priests, who won the 2019 Cupertino Classic at Marian High School, Mishawaka, will attempt to hamper their seminarian competitors and start a winning streak at the matchup this Christmas season.

Seminarian Samuel Martinez said that the key to obstructing the priestly strategy is to “thwart the brothers Coonan,” referring to Father Matthew Coonan and Father Terrence Coonan.

“There’s a lot of different strategies. With the priests winning last year, I think a lot of it comes down to not getting ‘out intensity-ed’ by the Coonan brothers. So that’s definitely No. 1, we’ve got to watch out for those two.”

But besides that,” he continued, “I don’t know. We’ve got our, kind of like ‘star-studded’ roster this year. It will be interesting to see. I think they’ll do fine on their own — a lot of these guys have good basketball experience and good whereabouts in that regard.”

To prepare for the game, the seminarians have been hard at work practicing and narrowing their roster.

“We were trying to figure out the rosters because we actually, just this past week, started our practices. But we’ve brought it down to, I think, seven guys.”

He added that, in the past, the game has brought around 1,200 fans to the stands. The seventh annual Cupertino Classic marks the first time that the University of Saint Francis has hosted the event, and Martinez said he expects around 2,000 spectators to watch the battle.

“We’re hoping to fill all the stands, have all the floor seating taken and everything too. And with, of course, having the Mass ahead of time, the holy hour, and then having all sorts of fun booths and different things like that for the vocations office and stuff, there’s going to be a lot going on.”

Mass will be celebrated in the university chapel at 3:45 p.m. prior to the game. Following the conclusion of Mass, eucharistic adoration will be offered in the chapel until the Hutzell Center doors open at 6 p.m.

Although the basketball game



Photos by Joshua Schipper

**Father Matthew Coonan cuts around his seminarian opponent during the 2019 Cupertino Classic. This year’s game at the University of Saint Francis’ Hutzell Center brings back the annual matchup after a year’s hiatus.**

will take center stage that evening, its purpose is to call attention to vocations.

“As usual, Cupertino itself is a game we’re using to raise awareness about vocations. It’s not like it’s a big fundraiser or anything like that, it’s really just to bring the diocese together to see the seminarians and priests competing in a good, competitive event,” said Martinez.

“It’s going to be great, being able to say, ‘hey, come support your vocations but at the same time realize that we’re all here because of Christ,’ and just leading into it with that. That’s going to be cool. I’m excited about that.”

Organizers named the Cupertino Classic for St. Joseph of Cupertino, a 17th-century Franciscan monk who was known to levitate when in prayer, especially when Christmas carols were sung at Mass.

Of course, the choice of St. Joseph of Cupertino as the patron saint of this annual basketball

game is particularly fitting, as many Catholics will sing Christmas carols in anticipation and celebration of the coming of the Messiah — and because the players may pray for His intercession to levitate over their opponents.

“Just keep all of us in your prayers. It’s the biggest thing,” said Martinez.

The Cupertino Classic is an event for everyone in the diocese to come together for camaraderie and fellowship, and to rejoice during the Christmas season over their shared Catholic faith.

For more information on the game, find “Cupertino Classic” on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit [diocesefwsb.org/cupertino](http://diocesefwsb.org/cupertino). Entry is free and open to all. The diocese will accept freewill offerings to support the education and formation of its seminarians during the game, or any time online at [osvonlinegiving.com/224/DirectDonate/20449](http://osvonlinegiving.com/224/DirectDonate/20449).

**Several of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration enjoy a past Cupertino Classic game.**

**Priests VS Seminarians BBall Game**  
**Monday, Dec 27 at the University of St. Francis Hutzell Athletic Center**  
*~ Bring the whole family for this fun rivalry ~*  
**3:45 p.m. Mass at Saint Francis Chapel, Adoration until 6 p.m.**  
**Doors open at 6 for a 6:30 p.m. tip-off**  
*free admission*

**Thank you to our sponsors!**  
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*“Just keep all of us*

*in your prayers.*

*It’s the biggest thing.”*

SEMINARIAN SAMUEL MARTINEZ

# Bread, wine and a Norway spruce: the sacramental life

Before there were any buildings in Rockefeller Center, there was a Christmas tree.

At the peak of the Great Depression, construction workers hungering for holiday cheer pooled their money to buy a 20-foot balsam fir and placed it in the center of the construction site. They decorated the tree with whatever they could find: strings of cranberry their wives made, paper garlands, tin cans, even foil gum wrappers.

The men lined up at the tree to receive their paychecks. Their spirits were buoyed – and, unbeknownst to them, a tradition was born. Ninety years later, it endures.

Each tree brings a story. In 1951, it drew national attention when NBC televised the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree lighting for the first time. In 1969, it was given 12 metal wire angels made by an immigrant woman. After the Sept. 11 attacks, it was adorned in red, white and blue.

Last year, it carried a tiny owl from upstate New York on a 170-mile ride to New York City. The stowaway was named Rocky, short for Rockefeller, wrapped in an orange blanket and nursed by veterinarians before being released. In the process, she became an internet sensation and the subject of a new children's book, "The Christmas Owl."

This year, the Rockefeller tree makes history as the first one from Maryland. The 79-foot



## TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

Norway Spruce was wrapped with more than 50,000 multi-colored lights on five miles of wire and then topped with a 900-pound Swarovski star.

But my favorite part of the story is what happens when the star is removed and the lights are unplugged. When Christmas ends, the tree's story is just beginning. Its trunk is milled into two-by-fours and used by Habit for Humanity to build a house. The one-time Christmas icon becomes a forever home.

This speaks to me as a Catholic surrounded by sacramentals – physical objects that take on spiritual significance. They are blessed by prayer and priests and patterns. Rosary beads are handled every morning. Candles are burning at night. Medals are dangling from the neck. And at the source and summit of our faith, bread and wine are consecrated.

Sacramentals are hopeful. They see not just what is but what can be. They reflect Jesus' promise: "Behold, I make all things new." They assure us that, like the Christmas tree hauled out of Rockefeller Center, we can make of ourselves

something beautiful, something lasting. Our weary bones can become a home.

Sacramentals offer a special kind of comfort in hard times, and we are marking the end of another hard year. A year of darkness and division; a year of resignations and aimlessness; a year of uncertainty. We can relate to those construction workers back in 1931 who fashioned a dreary construction site into a Christmas scene.

Yesterday I chatted with a Catholic dad who heads to the same Christmas tree farm my family visits each December. He joked about how long the tree remains perched in their house – weeks after Christmas, until his wife finally declares, "Enough!"

Then he sticks the tree in a snowbank in his yard till it's warm enough for a bonfire.

"It's quite fun to put a dry pine tree on fire because it crackles and explodes," he said. "I think about the sacramentality, the resurrection of this tree: There's this thing that has a new purpose."

Maybe you're feeling used up and dried out, like an old Christmas tree stuck in the snow. Maybe God is preparing your next chapter. Maybe 2022 will be your year, when people watch you and say, "There's someone who has a new purpose."

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for December 5, 2021

Luke 3:1-6

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle C: The preparation for the coming of the Lord. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

YEAR	TIBERIUS	CAESAR
PILATE	GOVERNOR	JUDEA
BROTHER	LYSANIAS	ABILENE
PRIESTHOOD	ANNAS	CAIAPHAS
SON OF	ZECHARIAH	BAPTISM
JORDAN	BOOK	ISAIAH
CRYING	PREPARE	SMOOTH

### THE WORD CAME

L A D O O H T S E I R P  
 K Y E R A P E R P V I I  
 C L S G N I Y R C S B L  
 A Y N A D R O J A R R A  
 E E N A N L K I C H O T  
 S A H P A I A C H O T E  
 A R Z E C H A R I A H N  
 R F G H T P O S K F E E  
 E L L O J U D E A O R L  
 F G O V E R N O R N O I  
 R M S I T P A B J O N B  
 S U I R E B I T G S E A

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# Let us make ready the way of the Lord



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Second Sunday of Advent Luke 3:1-6

The Book of Baruch provides the first reading for this Second Sunday of Advent. Baruch, not one of the major prophets, is relatively brief, certainly when the longer books of Ezekiel, Isaiah and Jeremiah are considered.

It also is among the books that almost all Protestant scholars called the Apocrypha. Baruch does not appear in the King James Version of the Bible.

Certain issues led to its omission from this renowned Protestant translation. At one time Baruch was presumed to have been written originally in

Greek. The thinking was that no authentic Scripture could have been composed in any language other than Hebrew. Scholars now believe that Baruch first was written in Hebrew, but that only Greek translations survive.

For Catholics, historically and now, most important is the fact that Christians from early times venerated Baruch as part of the Bible. The Church officially long has recognized it as such.

In any case, when Baruch was written, great problems beset God's people. A most severe trial was that many of the people were living outside the Holy Land. No happy choice caused this displacement. Political oppression or poverty forced the people to go elsewhere.

This book encouraged these suffering, exiled people, reassuring them that God would not forsake them and that God's justice and mercy would prevail over all.

The Letter to the Philippians furnishes the next lesson. Written to the Christians of Philippi, an important city in the ancient Roman Empire, the letter urges the Philippians loyal to

the Lord to be steadfast in their faith, come what may, until the second coming of Jesus.

As so often found elsewhere in the New Testament, this reading strongly states that one-day, at a time unknown, Jesus will come again in triumph and judgment.

St. Luke's Gospel is the source of the last reading. This reading centers upon Jesus, although John the Baptist is quite evident in the reading. Carefully constructed, the Gospel presents the coming of Jesus as extraordinarily, indeed uniquely, important in the unfolding of human affairs.

John the Baptist recognized Jesus, seeing in the Lord's coming the momentous entry of God and God's mercy into human existence. Thus, John urged the people to prepare themselves to receive the Lord. Essential in this preparation was the personal rejection of sin.

John was a prophet and a holy man. In the Jewish mind, holiness, more than anything, gave persons special wisdom. John could be trusted. He spoke the truth.

To emphasize the importance of what was occurring, this Gospel takes pains in setting the presence of John and the future coming of Christ at an exact point in history, namely when Tiberius was emperor of Rome, Pilate was governor in Palestine and so on.

Finally, Jesus came as God's promised redeemer. The prophets of old had yearned for the redeemer and had predicted the coming of a savior. When this messiah would come, all would be made right. The rough ways for people would be made smooth.

### Reflection

When Baruch was written, times were very bad for the Jews. When Philippians and the Gospel of Luke were written, times were hard for Christians. Circumstances differed, but the condition of misery and hopelessness was the same.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, times are hard for many. COVID-19 still takes its tolls. Many suffer the effects of hur-

ricanes or fires. Bitterness and doubt stalk the land. The results of sin still torment everyone.

All will be right if we admit Jesus into our lives. We must invite the Lord into our lives sincerely, by renouncing our sins, and by giving ourselves totally to God. John the Baptist calls us, as he called people in his generation, to be honest and to face facts.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-6 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab, 10-14 Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13 Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13b Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

# Our Lady of Guadalupe to be celebrated across diocese

MISHAWAKA — The feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, will be observed in several parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend between now and Dec. 12. All are invited to participate in the liturgies, Mañanitas (traditional song) and activities at the parishes listed below.

## **St. Robert Bellarmine, North Manchester**

Sunday, Dec. 12

Mañanitas 5 a.m., Mass 11:30 a.m., gathering at 12:30 p.m.

## **Our Lady of Guadalupe Warsaw**

Saturday, Dec. 11

Mass at 11 p.m. followed by Mañanitas at 12, then a small gathering for those who would like

Sunday, Dec. 12

Mass at noon and at 6 p.m.

## **St. Dominic, Bremen**

Dec. 4-12

Novena at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11

Reenactment at 11 a.m., procession at noon, Mass at 12:30 p.m.

## **St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart**

Friday, Dec. 10

11 p.m. Mass

Saturday, Dec. 11, 4-6 a.m.

Rosary, reenactment and Mañanitas

Saturday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m.

Procession from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish to St. Vincent de Paul Parish at 11 a.m. followed by Mass at noon

## **St. Patrick, Ligonier**

Saturday, Dec. 11

Serenade at 9 p.m. followed by Mass at 10 p.m., then Mañanitas at 12 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 12

Reenactment at noon followed by folkloric dancers, Mass and gathering

## **St. Joseph, Fort Wayne**

Sunday, Dec. 12

Mass at 11:30 a.m.

## **St. John the Evangelist, Goshen**

Saturday, Dec. 11

Reenactment at 4 p.m., Mass at 6 p.m., folkloric dancers at 7 p.m. and mariachi performance at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 12

Normal Mass schedule followed by 4 p.m. gathering

## **Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend**

Friday, Dec. 10

Rosary at 6 p.m., reenactment at 7 p.m., folkloric dancers at 8 p.m. followed by Mass and Mañanitas

Saturday, Dec. 11

Mass at 1 p.m.

## **St. Adalbert, South Bend**

Dec. 2-10

Novena, 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 10

Rosary 11:15 p.m., Mañanitas 11:45 p.m., midnight Mass

Saturday, Dec. 11

Bilingual Mass, 8 a.m., folkloric dancers 11 a.m., Mañanitas 11:45 a.m., noon Mass, lunch at 1:30 p.m.

## **St. Michael, Plymouth**

Dec. 3-11

Novena, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11

Mass, 11 p.m., followed by Mañanitas at midnight

Sunday, Dec. 12

Procession begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by noon Mass and a gathering with folkloric dancers at 1 p.m.

## **St. Joseph, LaGrange**

Friday, Dec. 10

Mass at 6 p.m., followed by reenactment and a mariachi performance.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at [www.todayscatholic.org/event](http://www.todayscatholic.org/event). For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

**Christmas altars on display at Diocesan Museum**

**FORT WAYNE** — The Diocesan Museum will have a special photo display December through January of diocesan parish altars decorated for Christmas. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum is located next door to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Free parking is available in any cathedral lot. A handicap entrance is at the side door.

**Journey to Bethlehem**

**FORT WAYNE** — A drive-thru live Nativity will take place Saturday, Dec. 4 from 3-5 p.m. and again from 6-9 p.m. at Bishop Dwenger High School, 1300 E. Washington Center Rd. There is no fee, but a free will donation to Women's Care Center will be taken.

**St. John offers Advent lucernarium vespers**

**FORT WAYNE** — Each Friday in Advent, attend evening vespers by candlelight at St. John the Baptist Parish, 4500 Fairfield Ave. Confessions are available from 5:15-5:45 p.m. and Mass is at 5:45 p.m. Vespers begin at 6:30 p.m. and last for approximately one hour. Come back

each Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m. for a special Rorate Marian votive Mass.

**Little Flower Holy Hour**

**FORT WAYNE** — Little Flower Holy Hour for Vocations will be Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 7-8 p.m. at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, 1102 S. Clinton St. The December holy hour will be led by Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick. Contact Christine Nix at 260-422-4611 for information.

**Immaculate Conception Solemnity free spaghetti dinner**

**FORT WAYNE** — Celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception with a free spaghetti dinner at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne. Mass will take place

in the church at 5:45 p.m. followed by dinner in the gym, 4500 Fairfield Ave. (wheelchair accessible). Gluten-free options will be available. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council No. 16396.

**St. Vincent Knights of Columbus parish breakfast**

**FORT WAYNE** — St. Vincent Knights of Columbus are hosting a breakfast buffet on Sunday, Dec. 12 from 8-11 a.m. in the parish hall, 1502 E. Walleet Rd. A freewill offering with all proceeds from the breakfast supporting A Women's Care Center in Fort Wayne will be taken.

## REST IN PEACE

**Donaldson**

Sister Mary Kevin Ryan, PHJC, 90, Ancilla Domini Chapel

**Fort Wayne**

Wallace L. Hogle, 84, St. Vincent de Paul

Clifford Holleran, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Ralph Laguna, Jr. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Bernard Miller, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Theresa Miller, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

L. Stephen Schultheis, 79, St. Vincent de Paul

Suzanne Wolf, 80, St. Vincent de Paul

**Mishawaka**

Barbara Zwickl, 81, St. Bavo

**New Haven**

Adam R. McCarthy, 27, St. John the Baptist

Mary J. York, 81, St. John the Baptist

**South Bend**

Leona Albano, 91, Holy Cross

Robert Drajer, 83, Holy Cross

Joan Kaczynski, 92, St. Casimir

Claudette Leszczynski, 88, Holy Family

Bernard C. Nowicki, 82, Christ the King

Richard Rozmarynowski, 77, Holy Family

Sharon Sandow, 73, Holy Cross

Teresse Schmanski, 95, Holy Cross

**Deaths elsewhere**

Sister Joan Marie Shillinger, CSSF, 81, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel. Sister served at Holy Family School, South Bend

## EMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH BEND

**Refugee Services Case Manager**

The Refugee Services Case Manager serves day to day required services related to the agency's Resettlement, Match Grant, and job development program. The case manager provides services to clients to address their needs in the areas of housing, medical and health care, financial needs, education, translation, job development, or any other issue related to daily living needs.

**Refugee Support Services Case Manager**

The Refugee Support Services Case Manager serves day to day required services related to the agency's Refugee Services Department and Refugee Support Services Program clients. The case manager provides a range of services related to employment opportunities, youth mentoring and senior services for refugees.



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## Most Precious Blood Parish seeks Director of Music and Liturgy

The primary role of the Director of Music and Liturgy is to provide and coordinate music for three weekend Masses and special liturgies as needed.

**Qualifications and Requirements:**

- A faithful individual committed to growth personally and professionally, with love for the Catholic liturgy
- Experience working with and developing a choir and leading congregational singing
- Excellent professional, verbal, and written communication skills
- Knowledge of Catholic musical selections including Catholic modern and traditional hymns and praise and worship hymns
- Ability to work with volunteers – musicians and cantors
- Dependable, organized and has attention to detail
- Proficient at piano/organ and singing

**This is a part-time position with some flexibility outside of the Mass schedule.**

**Salary is commensurate with experience and agreed upon schedule.**

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# Advent in six words: WHAT WILL THIS SEASON BRING US?

BY SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

The celebration of Advent can sometimes fade away if the true reason behind this season is forgotten or if people speed their way through it, looking forward to other events and not slowing to notice what's around them. But Catholics are speaking up and telling the world of the true meaning and message behind this great season.

Ernest Hemingway is credited with writing an entire story in just six words. His famous narrative reads: "For sale: baby shoes, never worn." While this is an incredibly sad story, it also presents a potential challenge. In preparation for the Advent season, is it possible for someone to create a story in just six words that expresses the meaning of the liturgical season and what the Advent season will bring for them?

Diocesan parishioners were asked: "As Advent brings the start of something new and something holy into our lives, what will this Advent season bring for you?"

**"Jesus is coming. Open your heart." – Debi Schoedel, 64, Our Lady of Good Hope**

**"A Savior, I need him, Joy!" – Mary Esslinger, 69, Our Lady of Good Hope**

**"We Wait, We Watch, He Comes." – Marianne Dunne, 78, Our Lady of Good Hope**

**"November: The time Advent Season begins." – Jordan Tieszen, 10, Our Lady of Good Hope**

**"Look within, Eliminate Trash, Begin Anew." – John Hilgenberg, 71, St. Martin de Porres**

**"Waiting for presents? No, His presence." – Brian Dunne, 54, St. Therese**

**"Celebrate Mary's Yes, Pray the Rosary." – Ann Lushis, 66, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"I refuse to become a nugget." – Natalie Reeder, 41, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"Light in darkness, love came down." – Eric Sheibley, 43, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"Candles light, family table, joy awaits." – Mindy Sheibley, 40, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"Candles light, carolers sing come Emmanuel." – Gianna Sheibley, 10, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"Candles light, singing prayers all together." – James Sheibley, 6, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"Simplicity of Life, Gives you Peace." – Carole Jaroch, 76, Sacred Heart, Warsaw**

**"Return to God, family. Love, Mom." – Pam Leach, 47, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"Preparing for more than just Christmas." – Karen Eckrich, 25, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne**

**"Watching waiting, preparing praying, King's coming." – Joan Kraska, 75, Christ the King**

**"Candles announce Satan's demise: Rorate Coeli." – Christopher Lushis, 33, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"Expectant hope awaits silent, holy night." – Lindsay Lushis, 35, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"Emmanuel, I will follow Your path." – Kris, 44, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"Advent means Love, Joy, and Christ." – Clare, 11, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"I feel Jesus in my heart." – Luke, 9, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

**"Sinless Savior in messy stable; me." – Monica Aquila, 35, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne**

