

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2005
St. Christopher
Catholic Church,
Marysville



The Way We Arrange the Church

by Fr. Art Baranowski

We have tried a new arrangement of chairs for the last three weekends. We are going back to the previous arrangement of chairs around the altar, the way the church was set up for the last 20+ years. Here are the reasons.

1. In the new arrangement, people no longer come around the altar well.
2. The seating is uneven for Communion. There are much longer lines going to communion from the two sections on the main aisle.

St. Christopher's church building has a design that places the altar in a place where most people are seated in front of the altar. If we follow the design of the building, people cannot be brought around the altar. What is happening is that most people take a place along the middle aisle in front of the altar except at the 9:30 Mass where the church is full.

At the other three weekend Masses, people are not around the altar. There is one section where nobody sits unless there is no other space left.

We are returning to the set up of the last 20 years. The setup of the church over the last 20 years has the altar in the middle of the people even though this is not the middle of the church space. Returning the altar to the middle of the people does not look as good as far as the building is concerned but bringing people around the altar is critically important.

(Continued on page 2)

Welcome New Parishioners



George and Ann Biscarner are back to this area after a number of retirement years up North. Being closer to the children and grandchildren and the doctors brought them back. The Biscarner's are the "old school" Catholics—caring about the church and about the ways of the Lord. They have made all their previous parishes better just by being parishioners. Now, St. Christopher's will benefit from their presence and their faith.

Melissa and Rylee (3 months) Hills was raised nearby and received the sacraments of initiation at St. Stephen's. She has lived in another part of the state for the last few years and now returns. Melissa has had the Catholic faith planted deeply in her through her family. She now wants that faith for her daughter. May Melissa and the daughter God has given her find deep roots in St. Christopher's faith-filled people.



Vigil Mass
Wednesday, Dec. 7
7:00 p.m.

**Feast Of The
Immaculate
Conception**
Thursday, Dec. 8
9:00 a.m.

WEEKLY CALENDAR**Sunday, December 4, 2005***(Bagel Sale After All Masses)*

9:30 a.m. Breaking Open the Word
For those adults and teens inquiring about the Catholic Church.

9:30 a.m. Baby/Toddler Sitting
Ages 10 months – 3 yrs.

9:30 a.m. Children's Church
Ages 3 yrs – Kindergarten

10:30 -12 p.m. RCIA /Quest Rm.

10:45 a.m. 1st –8th Grade

1-5:00 p.m. D.R. Team Formation
Retreat

5:00 p.m. Altar Servers

6:30 p.m. Quest Leaders

7:00 p.m. Quest-Shopping Trip *(Bring \$5)*

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

6:00 p.m. Rosary Altar Society
Christmas Buffet/Social Hall

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Immaculate Conception

No Religious Ed. 1st-6th Grades

No Religious Ed. 6th, 7th, 8th Grades

Thursday, December 8, 2005

9:00 a.m. Mass *Immaculate Conception*

6:00 p.m. Pastoral Musicians

Friday, December 9, 2005

6:30 p.m. Eucharistic Ministers &
Lectors/Social Hall

Saturday, December 10, 2005

10-11:15 a.m. Venture

Kitchen/Social Hall

4:00 p.m. Confession

Sunday, December 11, 2005

9:30 a.m. Breaking Open the Word
For those adults and teens inquiring about the Catholic Church.

9:30 a.m. Baby/Toddler Sitting
Ages 10 months – 3 yrs.

9:30 a.m. Children's Church
Ages 3 yrs – Kindergarten

10:30 -12 p.m. RCIA /Quest Rm.

10:45 a.m. 1st –8th Grade

6:30 p.m. Quest Leaders

7:00 p.m. Quest

(Continued from page 1)

The Eucharist we celebrate each Sunday is not primarily about adoring Christ or about seeing the priest at the altar offering the Mass. The Eucharist is all about Christ right now calling and forming his people to be the church around his altar—right here and right now! At the Eucharist, we need to look like the church gathered around Christ's altar. Jesus Christ is offering his life to his Father and joins our own life from the last week to his offering. We need to look like we are there at his altar with him.

The people of the church also need to look like we are around Christ's table where he feeds us with himself. Around this table of all tables, Christ is forming us and transforming us into the church. This world of ours is starving for meaning and for love that lasts and for life beyond the grave. Catholic people simply have to come around this altar table and bring their hungers.

So, the church building does not look as good where the altar will be. But, having the altar in the middle of the people says better what we are as church and what Christ is trying to form us into at every Eucharist.

I have had endless discussions and heard many opinions on how our church should be arranged. There is no perfect solution to the seating because of the way our building is designed. The main concern always is to make the Mass the most reverent communal experience our Lord wants. Right or wrong, I am deciding on bringing the people of the church around the altar as much as possible.

This Sunday's Gospel

Mark 1, 1-8

The word "gospel" means good news and Jesus himself is the good news. Jesus can change a person from the inside out because Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit not just with water. John the Baptist prepares people for Jesus by getting people to get rid of what gets in the way. There has to be room for Jesus to come into a person's life.

1. For Jesus to find room in our world, what would the world have to get rid of?
2. For Jesus to find more room in the Church, what would we have to get rid of?
3. For Jesus to find more room in you, what has to go?

Next Week's Readings*Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**John 1:6-8,19-28***Remember to Keep in Your Prayers**

Freda Pelech, Patrick Owens, Leo & Betty Visga, Avery Langowski, Mary Warren, Ralph & Nancy Ceglarek, Dorothy Smarch, Simone Stern, Barbara Rumley, Sally Eagen, Jason Finn, Dorothy Horn, Maria Miller, Bill Soboleski, Elizabeth Wessel, Bernice Melzarczyk, Theresa Prince, Rosie Dazer, Maureen Pochodylo, Greg Riley, Lori Charette, Helen Ferris, Mia Nowak, Albert Kubek, Kathy & Karen Carty, Kyle Clayton, Patrick McCarthy, Bernard Shafran, Loreen Metheny, Helen Senik, James Newson, Florence Ferris, Al Kustowski, Marlene Konik, Mary Blessinger, Dominic, Gino & Jordan Pecoraro, Russel Rumsey, Doris Godi, Barbara Stockwell, Harvey Brodeur, Mary Hodges, Patricia Pavlov-Leins, Jean Brockdorff, Kyle Stivers, Kim Stephenson, Jean Greenhoe and those who care for them.

Baptized In Christ

Carter James Stevens, child of Christopher and Keri (Meilselbaugh) Stevens

Liam Patrick Lepak, child of Patrick and Sharon (Kahn) Lepak

**Weekend Liturgy
December 10 & 11, 2005**

Day/Time	Saturday, 5:00 pm.	Sunday, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, 9:30 a.m.	Sunday, 11:30 a.m.
Mass Intention	Richard Maveethy By Patti, Erin, & Jeremiah	Parishioners of St. Christopher	Judith Harrison Dumerjich By Dennis & Marsha Bilina & Family	Douglas MacIntoch By Florence Ferris and Family
Celebrant	Fr. Britz	Fr. Baranowski	Fr. Baranowski	Fr. Baranowski
Lector	Joe Pavlov Mike Rumley	Ron Horbes Jill Kammer	Joe Tranchida Debbie Forster	Jenine Ulrich Joe Ellery
Eucharistic Minister	Marilynn Pavlov Dorothy Burgess Mike King Jerry Ayotte Dave Banyas	Fely Nurenberg Ron Nurenberg Barb Stocker Rollin Stocker Sue Bewersdorff	Esther Pelliccia Donna Orr Flo Herlihy Mary Bixler Kimberly Erb Mary Jo Jewell	Cheryl Borowski Eugene Mozal Russell Hill Cheryl Azarcon Lisa Jones Monica Myers
Cantor	As Assigned	As Assigned	As Assigned	As Assigned
Altar Servers	Grant Rumley Sean VanTiem	Cara Maertens	Chalene Holmes	David Drouillard Matt Miller
Hospitality Ministers	Paul Urban Jason Finn Ken & Angie Shoff	Craig, Nancy, Craig, Nate Hohf	Greg, Sandy, Megan, Matthew Schuster	Rick Goodmen Steven Makowski Steven & Robin Stiver

Readings Of The Week

**Sunday, December 4
SECOND SUNDAY OF AD-
VENT**

Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Ps 85:9-14
2 Pt 3:8-14
Mk 1:1-8

Monday, December 5

Is 35:1-10
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 6

Is 40:1-11
Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 7

**Ambrose, bishop,
doctor of the Church**

Is 40:25-31
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 8

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BVM**

Gn 3:9-15, 20
Ps 98:1-4

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38

Friday, December 9

Is 48:17-19
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 10

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Weekday Mass Intentions
December 5, 2005 – December 9, 2005**

Monday, 9:00 a.m.	No Mass
Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.	Jack Murray (30 days), By His Family
Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.	Marjorie LaGina , By Carl Holmes
Thursday, 9:00 a.m.	Earl Wetter , By Dolores Wetter
Friday, 9:00 a.m.	Douglas McIntyre , By Ralph & Bertha White

**Financial Stewardship At
St. Christopher's**

November 26 & 27.....\$9,097.90
Children's.....10.00
All Saints.....819.00
Campaign Human Dev.....1031.00

Stewardship Thought...

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishop's pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live-the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

Wed., Dec. 7 Vigil Mass 7:00 p.m.

Lectors: Joe Ellery, Allison Warsinske
E.M.'s: Chris Krohn, Dieter DeVigili, Kathy DeVigili, Richard Clark, Lisa Jones, Tracy Daud, Jerry Huber
Altar Servers: Lauren Curley, Kyle Hercliff

**Thurs., Dec. 8 9:00 a.m. Mass
Immaculate Conception**

Lectors: Richard Schmitt, Nancy Trudell
E.M.'s Mary Bixler, Poppy Goddard, Charlotte Carufel, Vince Pecoraro, Judy Pecoraro

Attention Seniors

**St. Christopher's Christmas
Party Thursday, December 15**

Games: 2:00 p.m. *Bring a wrapped gift (inexpensive) for the games.*

Dinner: 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$7.95

Send Money/ Reservations to:

Barb Hagen
255 Washington Blvd.
Marysville, MI 48040

Must be in by December 10th

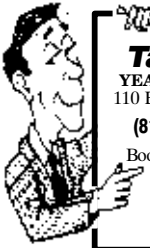
For More Info Call: Barb 364-8056 or
Helen 364-6191

Attention Ladies

**Rosary Altar Society
Christmas Buffet Dinner**

**Tuesday, December 6
6:00 p.m. ~ Social Hall**

Cost: \$6



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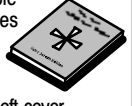
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