



Community

Volume I, Issue I

Advent 2010

Upcoming Special Events

- November 28: First Sunday of Advent
- December 4: Santa's Workshop (9:00 AM) & Blood Drive (8:00 AM)
- December 19: 2:00 PM Communal Penance
- December 24: 5:00 & 10:00 PM Liturgies, Christmas Eve
- December 25: 9:00 AM Liturgy, Christmas Day
- December 31: 5:00 PM Liturgy, Solemnity of Mary
- January 1, 2011: 4:30 PM, Epiphany
- January 2, 2011: 8:30 & 10:30 AM, Epiphany

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SCRIP News

Please buy and use SCRIP. New SCRIP Partners are:

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- Marcus Theaters
- Dick's Sporting Goods
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- Walgreen's

Dance in the Darkness

*“Dance in the darkness;
slow be the pace
Surrender to the rhythm
of redeeming grace.”*

The words of this beautiful advent refrain summarize the theme of the new beginning in the yearly rhythm of our church liturgical cycle. The days in November and December become shorter and shorter. Darkness comes early and many of us are up before the crack of dawn. The rhythm of nature has much to teach us in this wonderful time of year.

Living in the city it never gets totally dark, but my memories of my early youth on the farm were very different. It was already getting dark when we were walking home from school and by the time the chores

were done and the cattle were settling in, it was really dark. I remember one particular night when I was walking ahead of my Dad toward the house. He told me to stop. I did not know why. Then Dad told me to look at the shadows. It was a clear moonlit night and the shadows left by the trees marked a beautiful purple/blue cast like a road map on the white snow.

When a person is not surrounded by artificial light and has the comfort of a good furnace and warm blanket, the reality of the season doesn't really impact our body and psyche as it did in



Fr. Dennis Juhl, Pastor

the old days. We become disconnected not only from nature, our mother, but also from the things essential to keep body, soul and spirit intact. So, we need to make an effort to experience the truths of nature in a new way in our very modern world. Like the earth blanketed with snow rests, so must we interrupt our hectic lives to sink into the rhythm of rest, reflection and rejuvenation.

Before we can enter into the rigor of a new church year we need to celebrate a

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Dance in the Darkness: continued

winter of reconnection with our deeper selves that can only be discovered by candlelight or a long dark night. We must face the quiet that is only broken by the cold wind that whispers new dreams and makes us shiver as we put on extra layers of

clothes and blankets. The cold and darkness of this holy season brings back memories of days long past when nature herself forced us to slow down and be still. It is in this sacred space that the whisper of the ever present Spirit can remind us of our

real selves and awaken us to new life and a new birth. The newness will only be born in us if we have danced in the darkness.

Shhhhh . . . be still and know that I am God.

Blessed Sacrament Community: Santa's Workshop & Blood Drive

The collaboration of school and parish is imperative in a vibrant community. For the past five years Blessed Sacrament School and the Parish Community have partnered and promoted a Santa's Workshop and a Blood Drive for the American Red Cross. These projects have been jointly sponsored by the Home and School Association and our parish nurse Jean Rolinger.

On December 4, 2010, the Home and School Association will again invite families to drop off their children in the cafeteria to buy Christmas gifts for their

family members. Santa will be there for a photo opportunity, snacks will be shared and lots of fun for the little ones. Blessed Sacrament seventh and eighth students have been involved in the set up of tables, wrapping the gifts, and helping the little ones shop.

Blessed Sacrament School has been working hard on promoting the annual blood drive. The 6th-8th grade students have been studying the benefits of giving blood. A guest speaker from the Red Cross shared the important information that donating blood

saves many lives. The middle school students will then make posters to advertise and promote the blood drive. The students in grades 3-5 write thank you cards for each individual who donates blood at our blood drive. Students in grades K-2 make place-mats for the donors when they have their snack after giving blood. And the best part: Staff members or students will receive an out of uniform pass if someone donates blood in their name!! How exciting is that?

What a collaborative effort connecting school and parish! Please join us and support our

December 4, 2010

Blood Drive - Parish Center — 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Santa's Workshop - School Cafeteria — 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM





Daily Disciple: Patti Schmitz

“dis·ci·ple *n.* **1. a.** One who embraces and assists in spreading the teachings of another”

When the Staff decided to publish the newsletter again, we wanted to keep the “Daily Disciple” as one of the features. When we talked about who that disciple should be, Patti was the unanimous choice for our first issue.

Patti fits the definition of disciple in its true meaning. Patti truly embraces the teachings of Christ:

“For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in...” (Mt 25:35.)

Patti lives these words daily in her volunteering at the Cedar

(CVHH). She is also the coordinator of the *Cedar Valley Faith Works ...Ministry of Presence*. Patti is an advocate for Waterloo’s poor and homeless, the forgotten “invisible” people of the streets. Patti can be found taking people to People’s Clinic, Catholic Worker House, Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul and all of the local and county support agencies. She has learned how the “welfare systems” work (or doesn’t work!) and finds ways to assist those in need.

“Patti has been one of the “rocks” of the hospitality house as one of the volunteers...She usually volunteers on Wednesday mornings, which is referred to as “Pancake Patti morning” when she makes the guests pancakes or French toast.” says Joni Hansen, co-founder of the CVHH. Jason Holt, also a co-founder of the CVHH said “Patti is more than a blessing to the CVHH, she has been Christ to all the people she helps...She is the example of what living the faith

means.” Sr. Madonna describes her as “resourceful, caring and compassionate with a sense of humor.”

Since her retirement from John Deere information systems two years ago, Patti has become a “full time” volunteer advocate for the poor and needy. For Patti, helping out where ever she could has always been a part of her life. She has helped maintain the butterfly garden at our school, delivered meals to the homebound, helps at the Community Meals and volunteered at our school, our parish and at Columbus.

Patti is married to Rich and has four children: Suzie (27) works for the University of Miami in disaster preparedness; Anna (22), U of I in med school; Joe (21), U of I mechanical engineering and Frank (16) is at Columbus.

In her “Patti time” she likes to tend her vineyard and make wine. **(Deacon Bob Stirm)**

All Are Welcome in This Place

Senator Tom Harkin was the chief Senate sponsor of the Americans With Disabilities Act, A.D.A. This federal law secures the “fundamental rights” of the disabled. Today we celebrate the 20th anniversary of this legislation.

Vision 2000, “A Vision and Plan for the Archdiocese of Dubuque in the 21st Century” adopted strategies pertinent to the goal of the Office of Ministry to Persons with Disabilities:

“Ensure that all people experience our parishes as welcoming and inclusive communities. Work for justice, respect cultural diversity, and reach out to the needy both within and beyond our parishes.”

In February of 2006 it was demonstrated here a Blessed Sacrament just how difficult it was for people with "Special Needs" to fully participate in our liturgies as lector,

Eucharistic ministers, Acolytes and assembly. We started the long road to make our parish more special needs accessible for everyone, by renovating of our gathering space and adding an ADA compliant entrance and restroom. We all can agree that this renovation made our gathering space a very **Welcoming Space**. We currently have a plan ready to renovate the sanctuary making it accessible and welcoming for all. Hopefully we can start this renovation soon.

THE COMMUNITY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

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Reconciliation: 3:00 PM Saturday or by appointment
Masses 4:30 PM Saturday
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Sunday
8:00 AM Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:30 AM Wednesday during school

We're on the Web!
blesseedsacramentwaterloo.org

Q & A (email questions to: dbq208d4@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us)

What is the "New Roman Missal"? When is it coming?

The "New Roman Missal" is the new name for the Sacramentary (the "big red book") that the priest uses when he leads us in the celebration of the Mass. It will include minor revisions in some of the prayers used during Mass. These revisions will take effect on No-

vember 28, 2011.

Is there a communion fast?

Yes. All persons that have received their First Communion and are under the age of 65, are required to refrain from eating or drinking for one hour before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. Exceptions are for clergy who celebrate more than one liturgy on a given

day and the aged or sick.

What is the liturgical color for Advent?

The "official" color is violet. Violet is the color of penance and preparation for the birth of our Lord. Some churches use blue to set Advent apart from the Lenten season. Blue is a symbol of "royalty" for the coming of the King. Blue is also associated with the darkness and beauty of

New Leader + New Vision = Great Future!

Cedar Valley Catholic Schools is excited to welcome Mr. Jeff Frost as our new Director of Education. Mr. Frost comes to us all the way from Gilbertville and is a member of a family rich in the tradition of Catholic Education. He has vast experience in teaching, administration and coaching and is an enthusiastic leader for our teachers and students.

Mr. Frost sees the Cedar Valley Catholic schools as one of the best kept secrets in the state and a great place to educate all children in an environment imbued with Christian values. He is an open door administrator and welcomes any and all phone calls and visits. We enthusiastically welcome Mr. Frost to our Catholic Schools! You may contact

Jeff at 319-232-1422 or DBQMW01@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us.

