



EPHPHATHA

January is dedicated to the Holy Childhood of Jesus

ISSUE 1

JANUARY, 2011

January 1 is the Feast of Mary as Mother of God. It is also World Day of Peace. It has been celebrated as World Day of Peace every year on Jan 1 since 1968. This year Pope Benedict has decided the theme will be "Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace."

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God falls exactly one week after Christmas. It is fitting to

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Dear Friends,

Last month a group of interpreters along with Sister Eula and me met with Tom Racunas, the new director of the ministry at the Diocese. We had a great meeting discussing where the ministry with the Deaf was and what we are doing at this time to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Deaf Catholics. What a great group of people we have serving us! Please be sure to thank the interpreters and Sister Eula for their faith filled work among us for so many years!

The conversation

we had was very similar to a pastoral council meeting I had in my parish last summer. We discussed how we could serve our people better and how we could encourage a greater participation in the grace filled events.

It all comes down to conversion in the home. If we are praying in our homes, especially as families, then we will be more inclined to participate in the Church activities, for the Church begins in the home. If we are on our knees in our bedrooms, we will be more prone to be on our knees at Church!

How to pray in the

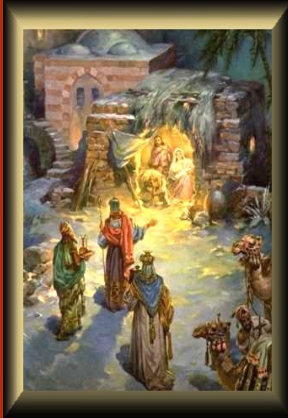
home? Keep it simple! The rosary, Morning Offering, prayer cards taped to the bathroom mirror, prayer books, use the internet Catholic sites. There are many ways, it doesn't matter so much "how" you pray, but "if" you pray in the home

Grace and peace this new year.

Fr Ken

kfanhaber-beke@seaswichita.com (contact me sometime! I would love to hear from you!)





**JANUARY 2—THE
FEAST OF THE
EPIPHANY OF OUR
LORD**

“Take the first
step in faith. You
don’t have to see
the whole
staircase, just
take the first
step”

Martin Luther King

JANUARY 9

**BAPTISM
OF
OUR
LORD**



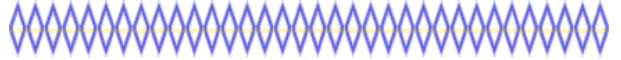
Special Days in January

- 01-Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
- 02-Epiphany of Our Lord
- 03-Most Holy Name of Jesus
- 04-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- 05-St. John Neumann
- 09-Baptism of Our Lord
- 17-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- 21-St. Agnes
- 24-St Francis de Sales
- 25-Conversion of St. Paul
- 26-St. Timothy & St. Titus
- 28-St. Thomas Aquinas
- 31-St John Bosco

**Happy
Birthday**

- 06-Faith Stone
- 12-Elaine Aaron
- 17-Keli Stone
- 19-Richard Gallardo

- 25-Madeléine Starks
- 27-Casey Cowherd
- 29-Rebekah Cowherd



Jan. 9th we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls this occasion of Our Lord’s baptism as His second manifestation. We may ask why Jesus was baptized since baptism is necessary for the remission of Original Sin and Jesus was without sin. His baptism was not necessary for himself but for us. Many of the Fathers of the Church saw Christ’s baptism as the institution of the sacrament. This marked the beginning of Christ’s public life.

NEWS GATHERED HERE AND THERE

Eula Conradt is now back in her home. She is working with a therapist and gaining strength.

Wilma Bennett is happy in her new home but would love to hear from her friends back here.

Her address is: Sterling House
1206 S Patton Road Rm 113
Great Bend, KS 67530-3190

Mary Mother of God continued—

honor Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ. When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary who was chosen among all women throughout

history to bear God, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary “Mother of God” is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the “Prince of Peace”, the Solemnity of

Mary Mother of God honors Mary as the “Queen of Peace”





St. Agnes was a Roman girl who was only 13 years old suffered martyrdom for her Faith

An interesting custom is observed on her feast day. Two lambs are brought from the Trappist abbey of Tre Fontane in Rome to the Pope to be blessed. On Holy Thursday they are shorn, and from the wool is woven the pallium which the Pope gives to a newly consecrated archbishop as a sign of his jurisdiction and his union with the Pope

St. Agnes is depicted in art as a young blonde girl in robes, holding a palm branch in her hand and a lamb at her feet or in her arms. Her name resembles the Latin word for "lamb", *agnus*.



Feast of Thomas Aquinas is on January 28th. He joined the Order of St. Dominic. He studied under St. Albert the Great. He was nicknamed the "dumb ox" because of his silent ways and



huge size, but he was a brilliant student. He is the patron of all universities and of students. He was one of the greatest and most influential theologians of all time. He was declared "Doctor" of the Church by Pope Pius V.



St. Timothy was a follower of St. Paul. His father was Jewish and because of this he was considered illegitimate by the Jews. It was his grandmother, Lois, who first became Christian. He was rather young and timid. He

He was often sent on difficult missions. He was with Paul in Rome when he was under house arrest.

St. Titus was a close friend and disciple of St. Paul. Titus is seen as a peacemaker, administrator and great friend. When Paul had trouble with the community at Corinth it was Titus who smoothed things out.

OOOPS I forgot to send the newsletter to Tom last month.

Here is how to access the newsletter on line:

Go to : www.catholicdioceseofwichita.org

Click on "Ministries and Offices"

Click on "Persons with Disabilities"

On the left side of the page, under "Services", click on "Deaf and Hard of Hearing"

The document can be opened by clicking on the icon.

Let it Snow!!!



Let it Snow!!!

What Have You Heard About the Mass???

You have by now heard something about the "New Mass". It is not new. A group has been working on the text of the Mass. This group has the approval of the Pope and the Bishops. There have been several editions. The 3rd edition contains prayers for the celebra-

tion of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, additional Masses and Prayers of Various Needs and intentions and some updated rubrics (instructions) for the celebration of the Mass. The full texts of the Missal will not be available for use until

the first Sunday of Advent 2011. The long-term goal of the new translation is to foster a deeper awareness and appreciation of the mysteries being celebrated in the Liturgy. It is hoped that all will use these texts/prayers for deepening their prayer life.

As the year continues you

will hear more about this so don't get too concerned that the Mass is a "New Mass". All will be explained in time. It is something to look forward to and reflect on the Mass as it is even now.



We are the Weber Family. **Ian Joseph** (9) is a 4th grader at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School. He wears two cochlear implants and is full mainstreamed. He enjoys swimming and tennis. He is bugging me to get him into music lessons for either guitar or the piano. I am holding out until he can be a bit more organized and do a better job picking up his room in the mornings. Ian is an avid reader. He is on a mission to get the most AR (accelerated reader) points at school. He enjoys learning and has fun with his friends. **Gianna** (7) is a 1st grader at Blessed Sacrament School. She wants to be a kindergarten teacher when she grows up. She is proud that she only has two “mark offs” for the whole year, and those are because mom or dad forgot to sign her agenda. She is an excellent student. She enjoys art. She is a natural athlete. She bypassed her brother in swimming lessons and just started on the gymnastics team. She will have her first gymnastics meet in mid-January. **Benjamin** (3) started the 3 year old pre-k preschool at Blessed Sacrament. He is becoming quite the ladies man, but I won’t go into any details on that. He prides himself on being a funny guy. All the kids are K4Jer’s (Kids for Jesus). Once a month we have twenty boys descend on our home for a K4J Mission, while Gianna meets a truckload of 1st. and 2nd grade girls for her mission. **Papa Weber** keeps busy chasing kids and dealing with all his clients in his law practice. (Bad economics aren’t necessarily bad for attorneys.) I (**Christina**) still work part-time in my marriage and family therapy practice. I have added a social work intern this year. It has been a positive growth experience for me.

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As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God’s blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy, and peaceful new year.