

MASS INTENTIONS ~ Dec. 23 - 29

Intentions indicated by "+" are deceased; no notations are for living

MONDAY 7:30 am -- Ted Schulz +
5:30 pm -- Jeanette Culhane +
TUESDAY 7:30 am -- Carol Sumner +
Christmas
TUESDAY 5:30 pm -- Jim +, Mark +, Raymond J +
& Agnes Kurtenbach +
10 pm -- Parishioners
WEDNESDAY 9 am -- Kenneth Lovik +
THURSDAY 7:30 am -- William O. Campbell +
FRIDAY 7:30 am -- Alois & Donna Krebs +
Holy Family
SATURDAY 5:30 pm -- Eugene Keller +
SUNDAY 9:00 am -- Don Brunner +
5:30 pm -- Donna Baumgartner +

MASS INTENTIONS: *Other than at St. Therese*

Wednesday, December 25 Marion Wilson +
By Fr. Zandri -- at St. John's in New Underwood -- 11 am
Thursday, December 26 Mike J. Vandenberg +
By Fr. Zandri -- at West Hills Village South -- 4 pm
Sunday, December 29 Anne R. Vandenberg +
By Fr. Zandri -- at St. John's in New Underwood -- 11 am

Our Daily Scriptures

Monday Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Ps 25:4bc-5ab,8-10,14 Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Ps 89:2-5,27,29 Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18
Thursday Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4,6,8ab,16bc-17 Mt 10:17-22
Friday 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12 Jn 20:1a,2-8
Saturday 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2-5,7c-8 Mt 2:13-18
Sunday Sir 3:2-6,12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21 Mt 2:13-15,19-23

FAMILY ROSARY: EVERY SUNDAY AT 7PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!!

Christmas Liturgical Ministry Schedule – Dec. 24 & 25

TUE. 5:30 pm E.M.: Diane Dahl, Beth Sand (S) Ralph & Rita Dupres, Diane Wilkinson, Pat Guerttman, Kelly Heintz, Julie Heintz, one needed **Lector:** Stacy Thomlison, Harold Hansen **Ushers:** Dick Cuka, Dan Shank, Jim Theis, Tim & Paula Shull **Gift Bearers:** Bill & Kathy Klemann **Altar Servers:** Maggie Miller, Evan Sand

TUE. 10 pm E.M.: Jean French, Chris VanCleave (Ivan & Darlene Davignon, Chuck Rausch, Elaine Kocher, Ellen McGuigan, Bob & Kay Olson **Lector:** Katie French, Deanna Johnson **Ushers:** Kent French, Michael French, David VanCleave, one needed **Gift Bearers:** Jim, Roxie & Bradley Quintus **Altar Servers:** Jacob French, Joshua French, Ben VanCleave

WED. 9 am ALL MINISTRIES BY 4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Liturgical Ministry Schedule – Dec. 28 & 29

SAT. 5:30 pm E.M.: Doug Meiron, John Mowry (S) Jeff Cook, Patty Fritzie, Diane Wilkinson, Joe Zacher, Ellen McGuigan **Lector:** Tim & Paula Shull **Ushers:** Jim & Roxie & Bradley Quintus, Dick Cuka **Gift Bearers:** Susie Marcks & Family **Altar Servers:** Juliene Moore, Justice Moore, Allison Schuch

SUN. 9 am E.M.: John Rapp, Darlys Zeller (S) Donna Abrams, Kelly Heintz, Kathy Grebner, Rachel Edelen, Mark Vedder **Lector:** Brenda Wills, Don Fitzpatrick **Ushers:** Dean Hade, Al Thome, Tom & Melanie Parson **Gift Bearers:** Greg & Tricia Kirsch & Family **Altar Servers:** Mikey Gorman, Thomas Gorman, TJ Morrison, Seth Edelen

SUN. 5:30 pm E.M.: Chris VanCleave (S) Chuck Rausch, Greg Rausch **Lector:** Harold Hansen **Ushers:** William Winch, Stan Fisher, Ben Schutz, Greg Suto **Gift Bearer:** Matt & Kati Skinner Family **Altar Server:** Max Bossen, Patrick Bossen, Jacob Rausch

Please remember to find a substitute if needed.

Altar Society Funeral Chairpersons ~ DECEMBER

Chairperson: Team Co-Chairs: Diane Ange

"Dear Father Bill, Knights of Columbus, and all of our brothers and sisters of St. Therese Church,

Our family was deeply touched by the outpouring of love, support, and great generosity shown to us on Sunday, November 10 at the Pancake Breakfast Benefit for Aaron.

So much effort and participation was really moving and we feel so blessed to be part of this wonderful Church family. Aaron is doing better every day. God has granted him much grace and mercy in his healing and recovery. Hopefully out of the wheelchair before Christmas!"

– Aaron Totten & Family

NO Back to Basics w/Father Bill until Jan. 15th

WELCOME

----- to the Faith Community

Through The Waters of Baptism.

Brayson MYERS, son of Thomas & Brianna

"Thank you!" to all who so generously showed their "little way" of sharing His love this blessed season through The Giving Tree!



We in the office are so touched by our parish's generosity towards others. It is truly a gift to us to be able to experience the recipient's joy and genuine gratitude at receiving your "gifts". You are truly a wonderful blessing. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

== The "Z" Gram ==

--- Notes From Father Bill ---

Many, many people have, and are, working very hard to help all of us celebrate an event that happened 2013 years ago. We are grateful to them and to all of you! Many were very gracious and generous in many ways. Please remember people who are not as fortunate as us.

Christmas time is a time to enjoy family members. Hope that all of us will appreciate what we have and to say "thank you" to the people in our lives. Please remember our Christmas Mass schedule: Christmas Eve Masses are 5:30 and 10 pm. Christmas Day Masses are 9 am, 11 am in New Underwood and 2:30 pm at Fort Meade. I have started to celebrate Mass on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at Fort Meade for veterans. We should never forget them because their sacrifice makes our celebration of Christmas possible. Freedom is never free!!

Please remember Father Marcin. He will be spending Christmas in Poland. He leaves December 22 and returns January 10. Anyone want a CAT? ☺

Thank you to the KC's and all who donated to the Benefit for Aaron Totten. The family received \$3825 plus a \$50 gift card. You are such a blessing!

~ PRAYER CHAIN ~

This is not the list in the bulletin.

If you would like prayers or would like to be a link in the prayer chain, please contact Anne Pozorski at 721-1229.

**Congratulations on your
60TH ANNIVERSARY
Louis & Roseanne
MANSFIELD
December 19, 2013**

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR WONDERFUL
EXAMPLE OF LOVE WITH US!!



ST. THERESE YOUTH FOOD DRIVE FOR THE FOOD BANK:

Please pick up a Blue Bag and fill it with canned food for the Care & Share Food drive. Bring back to the church by December 22nd and place under the tree in the Parish Center. The youth will deliver the food on the 23rd. THANK YOU!!
Psst! NO Adoration Dec. 23rd!

**Come, Let Us Adore Him
40 HOURS
ADORATION**

St. Therese, the Little Flower

14th Annual Celebration

**Beginning Mass: Sunday,
December 29th at 5:30 PM**

CONSIDER A HOLY HOUR WITH YOUR FAMILY

ADORATION begins at 6:30 pm through
Closing Mass: Tuesday, December 31st at 10:30 am
Mass on the 31st will be followed by a CELEBRATION

Rest In Peace

Antonia B. "Toni" Kopp

They go no further than God - and God is very near.

Please add MARY KAY COUGHLIN, DALLAS HERRICK to your prayers

Bulletin Prayer List:

Larry Amburn, Tim Ange, Don Anton, Bob Bachmeier, Jerry Bartholmay, Kellee Callender, Margaret Chronos, Tina Chronos, Eleanor Clarich, Barb Collins, Mary Kay Coughlin, Brandon Eastman, Kelli Eastman, Denise & Bert, Martin & Angelia Espinoza family, Don Everett, Denny & unborn baby, Lena Fagen, Cathy Falcone, Margaret Feist, Joan Feller, Sheryl Feller, Dick & Diane Fraser, Vic Gaudette, Darlene Grass, Judy Hansen, Sue Hayden, Jacob Heil, Dallas Herrick, Ellen Horan, Rosemary Huggins, Vera Jonas, Jerry Kaiser, Baby Kash, Dennis Keller, Fern Keller, Shirley Kenoyer, Albert Kittelson, Jerry & Elaine Kocher, Kathy Krause, Laura & unborn baby, Luke Mars, Theresa Martin, Robert Melvin, Jr., Anita Miller, Bob Miller, David Oulman & family, Heather Popken, Joyce Quinn, Raelynn, Dorothy Rapp, Ted & Judy Rapp, Joel Reed, Mary Reiner, Mary Rieb, Andrea Rivera, Doyle Roseland, Jim Russell, Karla Sandifer, Sylvester Schmitt, Art Schwahn, Leota Sidel, Mary Sigler, Donna Stulken, Elizabeth Torp, Aaron Totten, Sharon Weber, Betty Wilson, Al Winland, Bernie Zander

Thank you for your continued prayers for Jim Theis & Irene Cuka +

**A Big "Thank You" for those who
contributed to the CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Together we raised \$ \$429.75 at the Bake Shoppe which went to the General Fund & \$419.50 at the Gift Shoppe which went to the Families In Need Fund!

Special thanks to the Cuka Family & St. Mary's Circle!

THE WEEKLY FUNNY ...from Father Bill

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned up. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom and gloom pessimist. Just to see what would happen, on Christmas their father loaded the pessimist's room with every imaginable toy and game. The optimist's room he loaded with horse manure. That night the father passed by the pessimist's room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying bitterly. "Why are you crying?" the father asked. "Because my friends will be jealous, I'll have to read all these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff, I'll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get broken." answered the pessimist twin. Passing the optimist twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure. "What are you so happy about?" he asked. To which his optimist twin replied, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere!"

LET ME BE YOUR HANDS, LORD

Each Friday morning, volunteers take Holy Communion to the homebound of our parish. The Homebound Ministry is currently seeking volunteers. If you would like more information on how you can take Christ to those who cannot share in the celebration of the Eucharist, contact the parish office at 342-1556.

MAC n CHEESE, CEREAL, SPAGHETTIOS & RAVIOLI, & TOILET PAPER

ARE NEEDED AT CHURCH RESPONSE
Please place your items in box at either entrance! THANK YOU !!

Christmas is a time for giving and sharing and what better way to do that than purchasing 'We Care Gift Cards'! You can help the needy AND get your holiday shopping done at the same time!!! They're available from many area stores including Walmart/Sam's Club, Safeway, Family Thrift Center/Prairie Market, and Don's Valley Market and they're good for all kinds of things like clothes, toys, music and even gasoline. Come by our table after mass or visit the ladies in the parish office. You'll be glad you did!
WE NOW HAVE \$100 CARDS FOR FAMILY THRIFT CENTER / PRAIRIE MARKET.

Oh goodness!! THANK YOU to everyone that donated items or bid on them at the SILENT AUCTION!! Together, we raised \$661.77 for the Youth Fund! You rock!!



BABY JESUS SHOWER
0-6 MONTH "GIFTS" FOR BIRTHRIGHT

Please place all items in the cradle "manger" at either entrance.



When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!

GENERAL FUND: Contributions last week

Envelopes	\$ 7362.00
Plate Collection	\$ 1744.00
Children's Collection	\$ 62.63
Immaculate Conception	\$ 15.00
Christmas	\$ 5.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 80.00
Gifts & Donations	\$ 10230.88
Adult Education Book	\$ 10.00
Copier Maintenance – KC's	\$ 50.00
Votive Candle Income	\$ 52.00
TOTAL	\$ 19611.51

Amount needed per week: \$ 6805.00

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Building Improvements	\$ 90.00
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"THANK YOU" FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Seminarian Fund	\$ 542.00
Retired Religious	\$ 30.00
Priest Retirement Aid Assoc.	\$ 300.47

COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER:

Dec. 22: General Fund Dec. 25: Christmas Dec. 29: General Fund



CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR – 5:30 pm

Practices - MONDAYS at 7:30 pm

PLEASE JOIN US!! Questions? Contact Sue Enghin at 343-8455 after 6 pm

ALL AGE VOICES INVITED AND ENCOURAGED!!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Grades PreK - 5th: SUNDAYS- 10:15 - 11:30 am

Dec. 22, 29 NO Class – Christmas

Youth Connection: Grades 6 - 9: WEDNESDAYS- 6 – 7:30 pm

Meal provided

Dec. 25, Jan. 1 NO Class- Christmas

CONFIRMATION: Grades 10-11: SUNDAYS- 6:30 – 8 pm

Dec. 22, 29 NO Class – Christmas

BACK TO BASICS w/Father Bill: WEDNESDAYS – 7 - 8 pm

OFF til January 15th! See ya then!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THOSE THAT LEAD THE ST. THERESE MISSION MEAL EACH MONTH.

Renee Coldwell, Mark Biggs & Richard Baumgartner & KC's
What a blessing you are!

There will NOT be Adoration on Monday, December 23rd.

ANOTHER WEEKLY FUNNY... from Father Bill

A lawyer and a senior citizen are sitting next to each other on a long flight. The lawyer is thinking that seniors are so dumb that he could get one over on them easily. So, the lawyer asks if the senior would like to play a fun game. The senior is tired and just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and tries to catch a few winks. The lawyer persists, saying that the game is a lot of fun...."I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me only \$5.00. Then you ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500.00," he says. This catches the senior's attention and, to keep the lawyer quiet, he agrees to play the game. The lawyer asks the first question. "What's the distance from the Earth to the Moon?" The senior doesn't say a word, but reaches into his pocket, pulls out a five-dollar bill, and hands it to the lawyer. Now, it's the senior's turn. He asks the lawyer, "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?" The lawyer uses his laptop to search all references he can find on the Net. He sends E-mails to all the smart friends he knows; all to no avail. After an hour of searching, he finally gives up. He wakes the senior and hands him \$500.00. The senior pockets the \$500.00 and goes right back to sleep. The lawyer is going nuts not knowing the answer. He wakes the senior up and asks, "Well, so what goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?" The senior reaches into his pocket, hands the lawyer \$5.00, and goes back to sleep.



NO CARDS ON CHRISTMAS EVE OR NEW YEAR'S EVE.

We will resume the social on Tuesday, January 14th!

NO BIBLE STUDY with Ben Eicher until Jan. 6th!

Faithful Citizenship "Although cohabitation seems to imitate marriage, research indicates that it fails to deliver the multiple benefits of marriage. In fact, cohabitation appears to imitate single life more than married life. People who are cohabiting are less happy generally than the married and are less satisfied with their sex lives. In America, long-term cohabiting relationships are far rarer than successful marriages. Research also demonstrates that couples who cohabit: have a 46% greater risk of divorce than couples who do not live together before marriage." **Marriage and the Family in the U.S.: Resources for Society**, A review of research on the benefits generated from families rooted in marriage, 2012, USCCB, www.usccb.org (From Diocesan Social Justice Commission www.rapidcitydiocese.org/WP/offices/social-justice-commission)

Hey! Check out the back of the bulletin too!! ->>

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE BACK PAGE?

These are advertisers that help support YOUR parish. Please support them & THANK THEM!

Interested in advertising? Contact Mike Quasney at 716-0387.

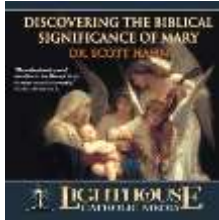
SAVE YOUR EMPTY INK CARTRIDGES!

Just place your empties in the box in Parish Center.
Thank you for supporting St. Therese YOUTH!

Discovering the Biblical Significance of Mary

In one of the most inspiring CDs we have ever offered on the Virgin Mary, Dr. Scott Hahn reveals incredible insights on the Biblical basis for the Catholic teachings regarding Mary as the Ark of the New Covenant. This presentation will help shatter many misconceptions and clearly demonstrate how Catholic teachings are unmistakably rooted in Sacred Scripture.

Following the presentation is a bonus segment from a prior talk by Dr. Hahn, "Why Do We Have a Pope?" **Find this CD, and many others and books in the entrance of the Church. Just place your donation in the box provided.**



Please join us in praying for parish family members in the military....

Msgt Allen J Wolf, Air National Guard, A-1 Christopher Fraser, SRA. Brandon Eastman, Tsqt. Charles Henriksen, Ssgt. Ryan Emery, 2Lt. Zachery Feterl, Jake Rivers, Ssgt. Amber Emery, Sfc. Scott Feterl, Pfc. Nick Weishaar, Ssgt. Jeff Weishaar, Pfc. Brian Berendse, Ryan Blindert-Willms, Tony LaCroix, Airman, Josh Sunstrom, Maj. Marvin Wade, A1C Michael Fraser, Brandon Whitney, Tom O'Grady, Bob O'Grady, Father Dave Reinhardt, Eddie Byrns, SRA Terry Irvine, Spec 4 Anthony & Pfc Shaeyon Klemann, CW4 Michael Reindl, Sgt. Matthew Reindl, Pfc. Jacob Korzeniewski, Spc. Rachel Korzeniewski, Sgt. Chad Moore, SPC Raquel Carlin, A1C Kyrie M. Heintz-Travis, Lt. Levi Lee, Spec Travis Aschwege, Sgt. Sean Mulloy, Pfc. James Meyer, A1C Robert Martin, 1SGT. Shawn Klosterman, Ssgt. Jeremy Martin, A1C, Major Jeremy Wagner, Navy; Capt. Cory W. Wallace
If you have a family member to add to this list, call the office at 342-1556.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

OVERCOMING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER MINISTRY AT BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH: **TUTOR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

LITERACY COUNCIL TUTOR TRAINING is looking for volunteers interested in helping adults with English reading, writing, and speaking skills. Participants will be introduced to the Lauback Way to Reading with an emphasis on English Language Learners (ELL). Volunteers will be matched with students after completion of the training. For questions or to pre-register, contact: Christine Leichtnam at 342-8598 or cleicht@rap.midco.net or Maria Muñoz at 791-3430.

Interested in Expanding Your Family through Adoption?

Catholic Social Services is currently accepting applications for our Domestic and International adoption programs. If you are interested in expanding your family, please call 605-348-6086 to speak to an adoption specialist. They can provide you more information over the phone, by mailing you an information packet, or by scheduling an informational meeting with you.

ONE MORE FUNNY...from Father Bill

What do you get if you cross Father Christmas with a detective?
Santa Clues!
What do the reindeer sing to Father Christmas on his birthday?
Freeze a jolly good fellow!
What do you call a man who claps at Christmas?
Santapplause!
Why does Father Christmas like to work in the garden?
Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe!
Why is a cat on a beach like Christmas?
Because they both have "Sandy claws"!
What's Father Christmas called when he takes a rest while delivering presents?
Santa pause!

Hear the Christmas Story in Song and Scripture

presented by Sandi Ohlen and Kaia Murphy

Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 4 pm

Holy Cross Chapel at Terra Sancta

Bring your family and friends to rest and listen to the story of the birth of Jesus and many of your favorite Christmas melodies. A free will offering will be taken for Rancher's Relief. Call 341-1078 for more information or visit <http://terrasancta.org>

Stop asking for a sign and become one.

Consider becoming a priest or religious. (Isaiah 7:10-14)

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!

Love INC Job Opening – Program Director of Life

INC Ministry This person will lead a team of 50+ church volunteers in administering and growing this adult education and mentoring program that helps people in the areas of finances, parenting, employment, faith and life skills. This year, Life INC served over 300 adults and 400 children this year in two locations. Visit www.loveinonline.com/new for more information.

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

For info. on the following ministries, call FLM, 716-5214 x236

Beginning Experience® Level 1 Separated, Divorced & Widowed Support Group, "COPING WITH LIFE ALONE". Are you recently separated or divorced? Are you struggling with the pain and loneliness? Healing can begin with the next nine-week session of the support group. The group starts at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at St. Therese the Little Flower Church, 532 Adams St., Rapid City. The non-denominational group is open to all Christian men and women who are hurting due to separation or divorce. Registration fee: \$30.00; need-based scholarships available. Pre-registration is requested! For more information and to pre-register, contact Jill at Family Life Ministries, 605-716-5214 ext. 236 or jslegner@diorc.org.

HEAL YOUR GRIEF Bereavement Support Group is an eight-week non-denominational group open to all Christian adults who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The support group begins at 7:00 p.m., Monday, January 27, 2014, at Blessed Sacrament Church, 4500 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City. Please come early to register! For info. or to pre-register, call Janece Rieman, 605-343-5547 or Jill at FLM, 605-716-5214 x 236.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends

What am I most thankful for in my marriage for this past year? Make the blessing of your spouse come alive in your life by enriching your marriage. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** will be held in Irene, SD February 14-16, 2014 and September 12-14, 2014. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: sdwwme.org or contact John & Dawn Elsinger at applications@sdwwme.org or 605-362-0924.



Mark your calendars! **Married Sweethearts Mass & Dinner-Dance, Saturday, February 8, 2014** Join us for this year's event, "**Be Mine! For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son...**"

Mass will be celebrated with Fr. Steve Biegler at 5:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont. The dinner-dance will be held at Stagestop Receptions, Piedmont following Mass. Registration fee: \$60 per couple. Registration is required! Registration deadline: Wednesday, January 29, 2014. Late registrations will not be accepted. Please consider sponsoring a couple who would like to attend, but cannot afford the fee. For more information, please contact Jill at Family Life Ministries, 605-716-5214 x 236 or jslegner@diorc.org.

RAPID CITY – CITY-WIDE YOUNG ADULT GROUP:

COR JESU ~ CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS

Monday Night Catechism Study at Cathedral, 7pm

Tuesday Night Scripture Study at St. Therese Parish, 7pm

Find the group on Facebook, "Cor Jesu - Rapid City Catholic Young Adults"
Call Randy Vette at 641-3303 for more info

Men's Al-Anon Group meets Saturday mornings at 9:30 am in the Large Meeting Room below the Cathedral Rectory. Come join us! If interested, contact Ken Moon (605) 390-2884.

TEC Together Encounter Christ is a Catholic Movement of Spirituality for older teens and young adults. TEC begins with the three day retreat experience, enriched with the life, death and resurrection and sending us forth in His Holy Spirit. TEC is rooted in Catholic doctrine and liturgy, but teens and young adults of any denomination are welcome to participate. Please join us Feb 15-17, 2014 at Terra Sancta. Applications are available on the youth bulletin board, if you have questions you may contact Rita Dupres 348-9676. Cost for the weekend is \$75 and includes lodging and meals. Scholarships available.

PASTORAL MINISTERS RETREAT

The Annual Pastoral Ministers' Retreat will take place Friday-Saturday, January 10-11, 2014, at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. For all who serve the Church in religious education, formation, youth ministry, and evangelization- join us for time away for prayer and fellowship with other servants of the Lord. We will begin with Mass and dinner at 6:00pm on Friday, Jan. 10, and end with dinner around 6:30pm on Saturday, Jan. 11. All priests and pastoral ministers are welcome - please join us! For more information contact Susan Safford (ssafford@diorc.org) or Susan Thompson (sthompson@diorc.org), 716-5214 x221. To register, visit this online link: <https://tsrc.wufoo.com/forms/pastoral-ministers-retreat-2014/>

Association of Commissioned Lay Ministers

The Executive Committee met on December 6, 2013 and accepted the resignation of Veronica Valandra as Vice-Chair of the Association of Commissioned Lay Ministers for the Diocese of Rapid City. The Committee is in the process of filling that position and if anyone is interested in pursuing the position please contact Kristine Engelhart, Chair, at 605-484-9030 for more information.

**We now have a website!!
sainttheresechurch.org**

The weekly bulletin can be found there, as well as other info. about our parish.

St. Therese Prayer

St. Therese, the Little Flower, please pick me a rose from the heavenly garden and send it to me with a message of love. Ask God to grant me the favors I ask, I thee implore, and tell Him I will love Him each day more and more.



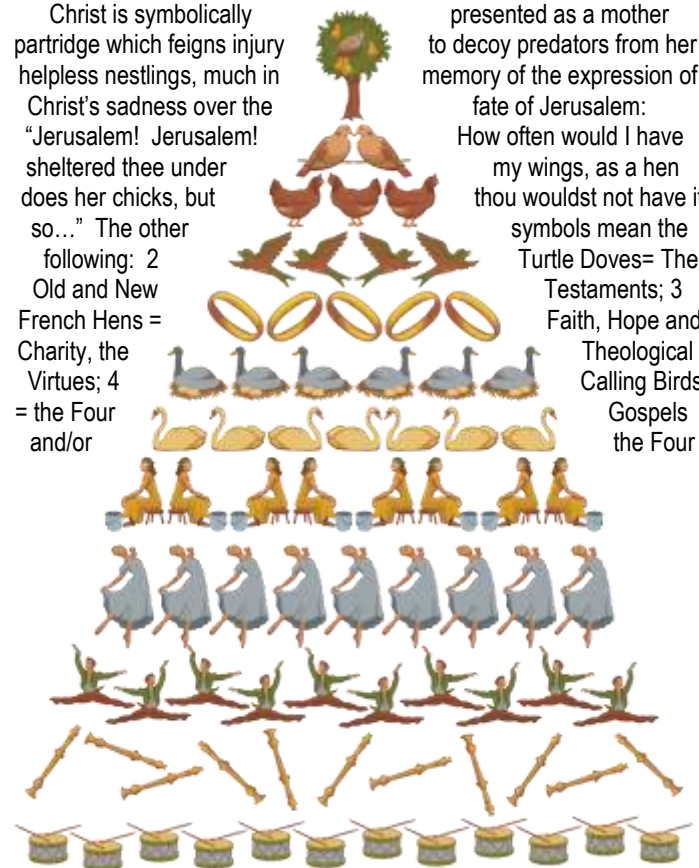
FAITH & FAMILY POTLUCK

Join us for a Faith & Family Potluck Dinner on Thursday, January 2, 2014, at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. We will have Mass at 6:00pm, followed by a potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to share. Drinks, plates, cups, and utensils will be provided. We will have an opportunity to meet and visit with some of the diocesan seminarians, and time for prayer and fellowship. For more information contact Susan Safford (ssafford@diorc.org) or Susan Thompson (sthompson@diorc.org), 716-5214 x221.

The Origin of the Twelve Days of Christmas

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most, it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts. Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law – private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith – a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in "writing" indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head – or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else. Hanging, drawing and quartering involved hanging a person by the neck until they had almost, but not quite, suffocated to death; then the party was taken down from the gallows, and disemboweled while still alive; and while the entrails were still laying on the street, where the executions stomped all over them, the victim was tied to four large farm horses, and literally torn into five parts – one to each limb and the remaining torso. The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song,

Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..." The other symbols mean the following: 2 Old and New Testaments; 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Virtues; 4 = the Four Theological Calling Birds and/or the Four



Evangelists; 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace; 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of Creation; 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven Sacraments; 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes; 9 Ladies Dancing – the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit; 10 Lords A-leaping = the Ten Commandments; 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles; 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of Doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.