

MASS INTENTIONS ~ Dec. 5 - 11

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

MONDAY	7:30 am – Jerry & Therese Freese +
TUESDAY	7:30 am – James Vandenberg +
WEDNESDAY	9:30 am Mass at Good Samaritan Center Immaculate Conception
WEDNESDAY	7 pm – Ralph Glatzl +
THURSDAY	7 am – Berneice Timmons + 7 pm – Elmer DeJager +
FRIDAY	7:30 am – Vicki Walters + 3rd Sun of Advent
SATURDAY	5:30 pm -- Parishioners
SUNDAY	9:00 am – Leo & Fern Keller + 5:30 pm - Fe Hayden +

FAMILY ROSARY: EVERY SUNDAY AT 7PM
PLEASE COME! EVERYONE WELCOME!!

Our Daily Scriptures

Monday	Is 35:1-10	Ps 85:9-14	Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Is 40:1-11	Ps 96:1-3,10-13	Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	Is 40:25-31	Ps 103:1-4,8,10	Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Gn 3:9-15,20	Ps 98:1-4	Eph 1:3-6,11-12
Friday	Is 48:17-19	Ps 1:1-4,6	Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4,9-11	Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19	Mt 17:9a,10-13
Sunday	Is 35:1-6a,10	Ps 146:6-10	Jas 5:7-10
			Mt 11:2-11

Faithful Citizenship “The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.” <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we>

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission requests prayers for all unborn babies in danger of abortion.

A sample prayer entitled Spiritual Adoption Prayer is: “*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with love for you I ask your intercession to protect the life of unborn children. May they all come to birth healthy and be a source of joy to their parents. For those in danger because of abortion, I adopt them as my own and pray for them and their mothers.*” (From www.rapidcitydiocese.org)

Altar Society Funeral Chairpersons ~ DECEMBER
Chairperson: Paula Welch Co-chair: Diane Ange

Interested in becoming a lector, Eucharistic Minister, Usher, Gift Bearer or Altar Server? Please call the office TODAY at 342-1556 and we will get you set-up!

Annual Christmas Pageant!
“The Not So Silent Night”
December 4th at 10:30 am

The Youth will serve caramel & cinnamon rolls after Mass, too! Stop down before the play!!!

Immaculate Conception Schedule – Dec. 7 & 8

WED. 7 pm	E.M.: NEEDED (S) Jean French, Nancy Palmer, Jim Blackwell, 1 needed	Lector: Julie Shauger	Ushers: Kent French	Gift Bearers: NEEDED
		Altar Servers: Joshua French		
THUR. 7 am	E.M.: Deacon Rauch, Theresa Rausch, Diane Ange	Lector: Sue Cone	Altar Servers: Bill & Jan Winegar	
THUR 7 pm	E.M.: Julie Heintz (S) Mark Vedder, 3 needed	Lector: Tony Berendse	Ushers: Jim Treloar	Gift Bearers: NEEDED
		Altar Servers: NEEDED		

Liturgical Ministry Schedule – Dec. 10 & 11

SAT. 5:30 pm	E.M.: Jeff & Martha Cook (S) Deacon Rausch, Jim Blackwell, Pat Guerttman, Ivan & Darlene Davignon	Lector: Julie Shauger, Valeria Vifquain	Ushers: Bill & Kathy Klemann, Mike & Betty Quasney	Gift Bearers: Ron & Barb Schuch	Altar Servers: Allison Schuch, Benjamin Schuch, Adriana Young
SUN. 9 am	E.M.: Diane Dahl, Julie Heintz (S) Holly Bossen, Paul Schneider, Ray & Mary Waagner, Ginny DeJager	Lector: Emily Brodeur, Joann Solano	Ushers: Tom Baumgartner, Tom & Melanie Parson, Dan Chiolis	Gift Bearers: Adam & Brandy Popken	Altar Servers: Destinee Heizelman, Drake Heizelman, Dyson Heizelman
SUN. 5:30 pm	E.M.: Chris Bossen (S) Beth Paris, Deacon Rausch	Lector: Nancy Palmer	Ushers: Bill & Jan Winegar	Gift Bearers: Jim & Renae Kampa	Altar Servers: Tyler Matt, Elena Tillet, Harley Tillet

Please remember to find a substitute if needed.
If you have changes for future schedules,
call the office at 342-1556.



ATTENTION BAKERS & COOKS!...

St. Anthony's Circle will be having the
Annual CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE
Saturday, December 10 @ 6:30 pm
& Sunday, December 11 at 8 am
(along with the KC Breakfast)

We would like your Christmas goodies for the sale! Please bring to the church at 4:30 Saturday night! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

Please add ANN WEBER O'CONNELL & ELLEN McGUIGAN to your prayers

Bulletin Prayer List:

Tim Ange, Wendlin Baumgartner, James Birch, Shirley Black, Kathy Borkovec, Barbara Boyd, Lorraine Brooks, Britney Weber Brouillette, Rose Brunson, Kellee Callender, Chad, Dorothy Coats, Alice Cole, Barb Collins, Irene Cox, Katherine Craig, Tom Crawford, Ginny Elliott, Todd Ennen, Cathy Falcone, Albert Fernandez, Judy Fisher, Elvina Follum, Haven Garrett, Tim Garrett, Vern Goetz, Gary Gross, Laurie Gustaf, Harold & Judy Hansen, Dan Harrahill, Sue Hayden, Cyndy Henriksen, Michi Hittle, Jaime Hopfauf, Rosemary Huggins, Father Kari, Jenny Keitges, Arlene Kingsley, Meg Krause, Corky Leach, Melanie Lewis, Fr. John Lule, Gayle Martin, Brad Maskovich, Susan McFadden, Ellen McGuigan, Steve Miller, Donna Moreland, Aggie Mousel, Ann Weber O'Connell, Margaret Paris, Donald Pазie, Helen Quasney, Jerry Quinn, Ted & Judy Rapp, John Radziwon, Rose, Carla Sandifer, Allen Schwahn, Shirley, Steve & Britney, Greg Suto, Wilma Theis, Louis Vanderslice, Eileen Walters, Rose Wickenheiser, De Etta Young, Bernadette Zander

Thank you for the continued prayers for Ed Davis +

Parish website:
www.sainttheresechurch.org
The weekly bulletin can be found there, as well as other
REGISTRATION FORMS & other info. about our parish.



All women 18 & over!

Please join the **ALTAR SOCIETY** Friday, December 16th at 8:30 am for **DONUTS & COFFEE** in the Parish Hall. If you want to join in an **ORNAMENT EXCHANGE (\$5-\$10 value)**, please bring your wrapped item. We will also have a short meeting. See you there!

Who will herald Christ in our world? Consider becoming a priest, brother, or sister. (Matthew 3:10-12)
PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!

A LITTLE LAUGH ...

"Mommy, I learned the greatest miracle in the whole Bible today at Sunday school," an ornery little boy told his mother. "What was it, son?" his mother asked, expecting to hear about the parting of the Red Sea, the many miracles of Jesus, or the burning bush. The boy replied, "Joshua told his son to stand still...and he obeyed him!"

Please come visit Jesus in the Eucharist!
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

MONDAYS: 8 am to 4:45 pm

Benediction & Evening Prayer at 4:45 pm

Come rest in Me. If only for a little while.

"In the presence of this mystery of the Eucharist, human reason experiences its limitations. The heart, however, responds and bows low in adoration and in love." -Pope John Paul II

We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

GENERAL FUND: Contributions last week

Envelopes	\$ 4025.00
Plate Collection	\$ 755.56
Children's Collection	\$ 74.34
All Saints Day	\$ 10.00
Copier Maintenance - KC's	\$ 50.00
Immaculate Conception	\$.19
Christmas	\$.62
Christmas Flowers	\$ 503.00
Votive Candle Income	\$ 81.50
TOTAL	\$ 5500.21

Amount needed per week: \$ 6805.00

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Building Improvements	\$ 17.71
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"THANK YOU" FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Seminarian Fund	\$ 26.00
Priest Retirement Aid	\$ 56.00

COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER:

Dec. 4: General Fund **Dec. 8:** Immaculate Conception

Dec. 11: Retirement Fund for Religious / General Fund

Dec. 18: General Fund **Dec. 25:** Holy Christmas / General Fund

DEC.: Priest Retirement Aid Assoc., Building Improvements, Seminarian Fund

== Fr. Kerry's Korner ==

Dear Parish Family,

Our Holy Father Francis, speaking about vocations to priesthood and to consecrated life, said in a recent letter for next year's World Day of Prayer for Vocations stressed, "the importance of the ecclesial community as the privileged place where God's call is born, nourished and expressed." He is talking about us! Vocations to priesthood, consecrated life, marriage, mission activity, service all have their beginning in the home. Parents who teach their children to pray and lead them in prayer help them develop the sense of the Lord's presence, and his love for them.

Reflecting back at my decision to discern priesthood by entering the seminary in 1978, I recall the impact of this scripture, "Your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I, send me'" (Is 6:6-8). I had the encouragement of faithful parents, teachers in Catholic High School and a few friends, and several priests to guide me through the seeming impractical, and high calling to priesthood. The prophet Isaiah and the sacraments of the Church helped me understand God readies those he calls. We are all called to live out a baptismal priesthood.

Again Pope Francis writes, "All Christians are called to be missionaries of the Gospel! As disciples, we do not receive the gift of God's love for our personal consolation, nor are we called to promote ourselves, or a business concern. We are simply men and women touched and transformed by the joy of God's love, who cannot keep this experience just to ourselves. For "the Gospel joy which enlivens the community of disciples is a missionary joy (Evangelium Gaudium, 21)."

This Advent we are called to Joy! Read at my ordination to priesthood in 1984 was a reading from Romans 12.1-12. The last verses encourage us to remain in the joy and protection of the Gospel, " Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer " Good Advent!

FR. KERRY PRENDIVILLE



Join the **CHRISTMAS CHOIR!!**

**For the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass
Practices on MONDAYS at 7 pm!**

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

The Giving Tree

**We are changing the Giving Tree this year
to include MORE of our parishioners!**



**We will be accepting gift cards to any
place, in any amount, to distribute to our
parishioners in need at Christmas AND
down the road. See sheets with suggestions.**

**WE ARE ALSO HAVING A COMMUNITY FOOD & COLD-
WEATHER ITEM DRIVE through the end of the year!**

**Please bring your non-perishable food items, NEW
socks, gloves, coats, hats and underwear
to the Parish Center.**

**St. Therese Parish will again help support
The Salvation Army ANGEL TREE this year.**

Gift Tags are available at all entrances!

**Please return your unwrapped gift for Salvation Army by
Monday, December 12th.**

**Thank you so very much for sharing your gifts
and blessings! Our parish is so awesome!**

*Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours
according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

CANNED MEAT & TUNA, SOUPS, CRACKERS AND TOILET PAPER ARE NEEDED AT CHURCH RESPONSE

Please place your items in box at either entrance! THANK YOU !!

ANOTHER LITTLE LAUGH...

A little boy in the Sunday school kindergarten class got up from his craft and went over to ask one of the adult helpers a question. "Are you a Christian?" "Yes," she replied. "Do you read your Bible every day?" She nodded her head. "Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes." With that he asked his final question: "Will you hold my quarter while I go to the bathroom?"

~ 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 Karen Thorp
at 342-1556, ext. 15 or ffkaren@rushmore.com.**



**Gift cards available from a variety of places
you love to shop (not just grocery stores)**

**Walmart/Sam's Club and Target and
Family Thrift Center/Prairie Market and Safeway and
Texas RoadHouse and RedLobster/Olive Garden and
Starbucks and Burger King and Menards and PetSmart
and BedBath&Beyond and Pizza Ranch**

GET THEM WHILE THEY LAST!

**Many more available upon request... order yours today!
For every gift card purchased, you receive piece of mind knowing a
percentage of the money is helping the needy in our community.
Visit the 'We Care' table after mass or come into the Parish Office**

Seeking gift bags, gift tags and small
gift items for the Santa Store at the
annual St. Therese "Happy Birthday
Jesus" Party to be held December 18.



Volunteers to wrap the gifts, too!

ONE MORE LITTLE LAUGH...

In a very small church, the pastor waited for the offering to be taken. When the plate came back with even less money than usual, he began his prayer, "Well, Lord, we thank You for the safe return of the plate."

Funeral Luncheon Ministry Chairpersons Needed!!

Matthew 5:4—Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

St. Therese is known for their willingness to prepare and serve a funeral luncheon to families following the funeral service of their loved one. This is the greatest gift of love and caring we can show our fellow parishioners during a difficult and sad time in their lives. Caring Chairpersons rotate on a monthly basis to make calls asking for food donations (casserole, salad, cake) and to line-up workers for the luncheons. You would be paired with an experienced person, so don't worry about the newness!! We invite you to be a part of this very important ministry which will eventually affect every family. Please call Renee Coldwell at 721-0808 to add your name to the list to provide food or update your "gift" to help call, set-up, serve and clean up after a meal.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Grades PreK - 6th: SUNDAYS- 10:15 - 11:30 am

Dec. 4 Christmas Pageant – Class
Dec. 11, 18 Class (18th is Happy Birthday Jesus Party)
Dec. 25, Jan. 1 NO Class (Christmas & New Years)

CONFIRMATION: SUNDAYS: 4 to 5:30 pm ~ 7th Grade

6:30 – 8:30 pm ~ 8th grade +

Dec. 4, 11, 18 Class (18th is Christmas party)
Dec. 25, Jan. 1 NO Class (Christmas & New Years)

Youth Connection: WEDNESDAYS- 6 – 7:30 pm (Grades 6-12)

Dec. 7 NO Group (Holy Day Mass at 7 pm)
Dec. 14, 21 Group (21st is Christmas Party)

Yes! It's that time again!...
Steubenville of the Rockies for grades 9-12
June 22-25 in Denver, CO
Register TODAY!!! Deadline is Jan. 12th!

CONTACT RITA DUPRES in the youth office
Total cost: \$390, includes conference, travel, lodging, t-shirt, most meals and Elitch Gardens.

Are you a single, separated or divorced Catholic?

CONNECTED CATHOLICS OF SD A group that provides a social and spiritual group of single, widowed, separated, and divorced Catholic men and women ages 35 and network of activities that offer companionship for singles. The group offers a variety of programs and experiences that enrich its members socially, educationally, and spiritually. If you need additional information or would like to be put on our email list please contact Brenda at 718-0954 or Larry at 355-9087. **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Sunday, December 4 - Holiday Cathedral Concert 7:30-9pm
 Saturday, December 10 - CC Christmas Party at 6pm - Pizza Ranch
 Tuesday, December 20 - Music Bingo at Thirsty's at 7pm
MORE EVENTS IN DECEMBER & JANUARY!
 Movie Nights – We can take in movies over the winter at Elks Theatre or Carmike on \$5 Tuesdays. Watch for emails!

Youth Pilgrimage to Italy with Father Kerry, June 8 to 19, 2017
PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!!

~ Avon (40% of your order goes to youth!) ~ Qdoba cards for \$10 (\$140 value!) ~ Sponsorship wall for Italy in Parish Center How does it work? Simply take an envelope with a number on it. (This number is also the amount of your donation.) Then put that amount of donation inside, seal it and return to the office, either at Mass or during the week. **If you include your name, address and phone number we will bring you back a small gift from Italy which will be blessed at each of the most holy masses at churches and at the papal audience by our Holy Father Pope Francis.** Please see youth board for our destinations!

~ BOOK SALE – See the books in Parish Center
 ~ PERKINS PIE SALE – Order form on Youth Board
 See Rita, one of the youth going to Italy, or stop by the office!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!! By making this donation you are making it possible for us to go on this amazing pilgrimage!

Doing some holiday shopping? Gift cards make great gifts and you can get them in various denominations from a variety of stores and restaurants while helping the needy at the same time. Just visit the 'We Care' table after mass on weekends or come to the Parish Office during the week and we'll get you started. The sky is the limit!

Boy Scouts Troop 7 meets Mondays at 7 pm @ St. Therese
 -New Members Welcome! Boys ages 11 - 17
 Call Rick Edelen at 415-5764 for more information.

Farewell Open House for Suzie Lambert
Tuesday, December 13th ~ 4 to 6 pm
Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Jerusalem Room
 Suzie has served in the Diocesan Finance Office for the past 27 years. *Best of luck Suzie!!!*

December Feature:
God is with us!
on Formed.org!

Why did He do it? Why did God become one of us? St. Athanasius gives a startling answer to that question: "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." In other words, the transforming effect of God's grace made available to us through Jesus Christ literally makes us more divine, more like God. Understanding this expands our understanding of salvation. Jesus became one of us to save us from something, our sin, but also to save us for something, participating in divine life! What a gift!

It's easy to get started:

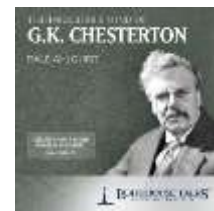
1. Go to: **FORMED.ORG**
2. First time users, type in the parish access code:
Our Parish Code: **2ad1be**
3. Returning users, log in top right with your username/email and password.
4. You're in! Start watching, listening and reading!

We hope you enjoy this FREE subscription and grow in Faith with FORMED.



The Incredible Mind of G.K. Chesterton

Dale Ahlquist, founder of the American Chesterton Society, masterfully presents the genius of Catholic convert and 20th century literary giant G.K. Chesterton. He shares how this "King of Satire" predicted many of the societal ills of our day and pointed out the remedies for them. Discover the wisdom of this literary critic, playwright, novelist, Catholic theologian, and apologist.



You will find this CD and other titles and items in the case in the front of the church. Check it out! I'm sure you'll see something you'll enjoy!

Diocesan Masses for Life Matching Grant

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission will again match donations made for the "Diocesan Masses for Life" project, up to a total of \$250. The Masses are coordinated by the Blessed Sacrament Parish Pro-Life Committee, but are offered daily at parishes throughout the diocese. This is the tenth year the diocese has matched funds for these Masses for the protection of all life. Please send your donation to: Diocesan Masses for Life, c/o Mary Mitchell, 113 Berry Pine Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702. Donations must be postmarked on or before December 31.

There will be NO KC #1489 card party on the 10th of Dec. Please mark your calendars for Jan 14th at 7pm at the KC hall on Minnesota St. See you then. Have a Merry Christmas. Any ??s call 342-1651

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES at 7 pm

Tuesday, December 6 ~ Cathedral OLPH

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 ~ ST. THERESE

Wednesday, December 14 ~ St. Isaac Jogues

Thursday, December 15 ~ Our Lady of the Black Hills

Monday, December 19 ~ Blessed Sacrament

*& EVERY SATURDAY FROM 4 TO 5 PM AND
SUNDAY FROM 8 TO 8:30 AM AT ST. THERESE*



Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

Welcome/Bienvenidos to our Bilingual Celebration Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Dec. 12, at 5:30 p.m., at Blessed Sacrament Church, 4500 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City. Our celebrant will be Bishop Robert D. Gruss. *A reception will follow Mass in the Parish Hall. If you wish, you can bring a dessert to share.*



National Night of Prayer for Life

Thursday, December 8th at 7 pm

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Mass of the Immaculate Conception feast followed by Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary for Life, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Benediction at 9:30 p.m.

Join in prayer for Mary's intercession to strengthen the "Culture of Life," protection against religious persecution, finding life-affirming solutions to societal problems and to ask God to revive our land. The Blessed Sacrament Pro-Life Committee invites everyone to join in this special prayer event for all life.

27th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life

7 pm Thur., Dec. 8 – 1 am Fri., Dec. 9

Our Lady's Chapel at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 520 Cathedral Dr., Rapid City. We will be having adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for the intentions of the establishment of a culture of life in the United States, protection for the Church from persecution, and the revival of our country. During the Hour of Unity, 10-11 p.m. MST, we will be uniting in prayer with churches across the country to end abortion and to restore God's blessings of life and religious liberty in America.

The St. Thomas More Mission Jamaica team will be selling cookies after all the masses this weekend. Proceeds from this sale will

go toward trip expenses and the purchase of wheelchairs. The mission team will serve mentally and physically disabled orphans living in the Mustard Seed Communities in Jamaica. Your support is appreciated!



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS Court St. Rita #916 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas

~ ADVENT PARTY ~

Monday, December 12th at 6:30 pm

At St. Therese, the Little Flower

Members, please bring 2 cans of food for Church Response, \$5 for this year's charity (the St. Vincent de Paul Society) and a potluck dish.

We will have a very short meeting. Please plan to come and celebrate Advent together.

2016 Rapid City Right to Life Essay Contests Topic: Why Are You Pro-Life?

Divisions are as follows:

Grades 7-8, 9-10, 11-12

Prizes awarded for each division:

1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25 in each grade division

SEE THE YOUTH BOARD IN THE PARISH CENTER FOR ESSAY DETAILS!

Please contact Diane Ange at 721-3065 for more information.

Hope For New Life (HFNL) Ministry

10th Annual Christmas Jail Program Each year our ministry

sponsors a Christmas caroling event in the jail. Our 10th annual program is scheduled for Wednesday December 21st. As we approach our Christmas celebration, we would like to share with you some of our ministry members' past memories and impressions of this memorable event. From 2013: "We were in the men's maximum security cell

block. I looked up to the corner cell and there was a man staring out the small window with tears streaming down his face while we were singing the carols. At that moment I saw the repentant sinner on the cross asking Jesus to forgive him. I saw Jesus standing there behind bars in tears for all sinners. My prayer for this inmate is that he asks Jesus for forgiveness like the repentant thief." From 2014: "I could see the inmates were touched by our presence at the jail, because I could see the gratitude in their faces. Perhaps many wondered why

people they did not know would show such love and concern for them at Christmas time. For me, this is what Christmas is all about. We were the inmates' families and loved ones at this difficult time. We were the newborn Savior for them that night." We hope these testimonies

underscore the very moving and special experience this event represents. This year we are again seeking volunteers to help with our program. We are also asking for **donations of postage stamps** for the

Christmas cards we will be giving the inmates. Donation boxes are available at the HFNL Display Shelves in the Cathedral, Blessed Sacrament, and St. Therese. To volunteer for the Christmas program, or to learn more about our ministry please contact

Bill Gradoville (341-2721) or Tony Galles (348-2301).

Quilt Request When the retreat center opened, more than 150 beautiful quilts were donated for use in the 58 lodging rooms (or 114 beds) at Terra Sancta. The quilts truly add to the atmosphere of the retreat center and are an integral part of our guest experience. As we reach the completion of our 5th year of operation, a few of the quilts are showing some wear and tear. If you're interested helping us replenish our supply and or repair quilts that have been worn, please contact us at 605-716-0925 or email stay@terrasancta.org.

Kateri Conference seeking Donations

The National Kateri Tekakwitha Conference will be held in Rapid City, July 19-23, 2017. The local committee has several expenses associated with hosting hundreds of attendees. Conference organizers are seeking donations and memorials to help with conference expenses: youth activities, transportation, hotel rooms and speaker honorariums, equipment rental, 1st aid supplies, and more. Please send donations to Kateri Conference, Dcn. Marlon Leneagh, Treasurer, Diocese of Rapid City, PO Box 678, Rapid City, SD 57709. He can be contacted at 605-343-3541 or mleneagh@diocrc.org. (See also page 19, November, *West River Catholic*)



Through the month of December **BABY JESUS SHOWER** For Birthright

**Baby items only up to 12 months . . .
newly and/or gently used. Outfits,**

diapers, rattles, t-shirts & onesies, receiving blankets
Please place your Shower Gift in the box at both entrances! THANK YOU for helping babies!

New SVDP Thrift Outlet

Following the success of the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Spearfish, the Society has opened a SVDP Thrift Outlet in Box Elder as of Dec. 1. All funds generated are used for ministry to the poor. The Outlet store will be a unique place to shop as everything is sold by the pound. The store will also carry low cost mattresses as well as furniture items, which will be individually priced. The new location is off I-90, Exit 63, at 640 Box Elder Rd. W. The store is accepting donations of clothing and household items. To have furniture or large items picked up call 605-791-0707. Store hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Sunday.

Share your gift of intercessory prayer & join the PRAYER MINISTRY FOR THE DYING

We pray 3 Divine Mercy chaplets for those near the end of life. Volunteers are contacted by text or email and asked to pray from home or church. Contact Patrick to join or request prayers. 569-1012 patdanflan@protonmail.com.

REFUEL 2017

For all who serve the church in religious education, youth ministry, evangelization or catechesis of any kind, join us **January 20-21** at Terra Sancta Retreat Center for **Refuel 2017**: "DESIRE: Catechesis in the Heart of Christ." Our speaker is Jessi Kary, AO, from the Pontifical Secular Institute of the Apostolic Oblates, formator, retreat director, spiritual director, and teacher in the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF). Mass and dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Friday evening, through 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Cost is \$65, with Early Bird rate of \$50 if you register before December 20. This fee includes the conference, dinner Friday and lunch on Saturday. If you would like to stay at Terra Sancta overnight, there are lodging options available at a lower rate as well. The optional breakfast on Saturday is also available for an additional small fee. Register online at: www.Refuel17.com.

A letter from the Bishop....

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Reflecting on the fruits of the Year of Mercy, I cannot help but recall the example of thousands of now elderly women and men religious who, for so many, are a living sign of God's mercy. These women and men – Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests – were indeed the hands of Christ as they educated the young, cared for the sick and ministered to the neediest among us. Through their service and witness, they modeled the compassionate love of Jesus and showed us that we, too, could be instruments of peace and mercy.

Today, many senior religious continue to be vessels of mercy, serving in a wide range of volunteer and prayer ministries. Others are frail and need assistance. Most older religious ministered for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. With the ever-rising cost of health care and the increased number of those needing care, many religious communities struggle to provide for aging members.

Soon, our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an annual collection that benefits nearly 33,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Your gift provides vital support for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious communities implement long-term retirement strategies that ensure both quality eldercare and continued service to the People of God.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of support; I ask you simply to give what you can. In thanksgiving for the lessons of mercy senior religious have shared with us, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Sincerely in the love of Christ,

Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Rapid City

More information is available online at <http://www.retiredreligious.org>.

**Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious is
December 13, 2016.**

Thank you for your generosity!