

**Saint Stephen:** Saint Stephen's Christian Mothers will not have the Annual Bake Sale this year at the bank because of COVID-19. Instead, we are asking Saint Stephen members to give a cash donation. As in the past the money will then be given to the Diamond Care Center for Christmas Gifts for the residents. Please put your donation in the gift box in the Vestibule or give it to Sherril Vondra, Treasurer. Thank you!

**Saint Stephen:** The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule for anyone who wants to buy a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$8.00. Write a check or attach your name to the money and put it in the container or pay Sherril Vondra.

**Saint Mary of Mercy Poinsettia Donations:** Anyone interested in making a donation for poinsettias in memory of your loved one(s) can put the donation in a separate envelope with the name(s) of those to be remembered. Please place the envelope in the Sunday collection. A list of names will be published in a later Bulletin.

**Christmas at The Cathedral 2020: "That's My God!"** There will be the special Christmas night broadcast, December 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 until 8:00 pm on KELO-TV, featuring inspiring stories and highlights from past *Christmas at The Cathedral* concerts from the Cathedral of Saint Joseph. Soloists: Laura Cooksey, Mike Eldred, Shelley Jennings, Scott Piper and Jackie Stressma, along with the Christmas at The Cathedral Orchestra and Choir under the direction of Maestro Dan Goeller ([www.ccfesd.org](http://www.ccfesd.org)).

**Saint Mary:** The National Honor Society from Hanson High School is managing a Hat, Glove, and Sock Drive throughout December. All items donated will be given to Hanson County families in need. Thank you for your help.

**Saint Martin:** During the winter, the Church will be locked at around 5:30 pm.

**The Sacred Heart Officers for 2021.** President: Christi Schnabel; Treasurer: Lisa Schleich; Secretary: Mary Ernster. We are currently looking for anyone interested in filling the role of Vice President for 2021, and then taking over as the President in 2022.

Band Leaders for the year 2021: Band 1: Kelsey Hanssen, Band 2: Jennifer Eckerman, Band 3: Valerie Zorr, Band 4: Jen Weber

Assistant Band Leaders: Band 1: Michele Schulte, Band 2: Mary Jo Hoffman, Band 3: Miranda Kayser, Band 4: Caitlin Olinger

**Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.** Notice was received about Father Paul Nereparampil, C.M.I. He left the U.S.A. on October 15<sup>th</sup>, but spent one week in travel and three weeks quarantined in two different locations. He sends his Christmas greetings to all. His mailing address is now available. It takes about four weeks for mail to arrive in India:

Superior, Carmel Nivas  
P. O. Burman Road, Kareli  
Narasinghpur DT  
487221, M. P. INDIA

**Boys (Sixth Grade and up) and Young Men of our Parishes:** Those who would like to meet the Seminarians and some of the Priests of the Diocese are welcomed to attend a special gathering in Sioux Falls on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Monsignor Mangan (605 521-0175) for details.

**The C.R.E. Program:** Currently in the Christmas Recess.

## **Advent Meditations 2020**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20<sup>th</sup>.** With only a few hours before Christmas Day, now is the time for renewed gratitude and humility. “What do You want of me, O Lord?” [Recite the Angel of God Prayer, that you may rejoice in the Birth of Jesus as did the Holy Angels.]

**Saint Peter Canisius, Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.** This Dutch Jesuit Priest taught the Catholic Faith without fear or human respect. His fidelity to Christ and His chaste Spouse, the Church, inspires our own efforts. [Offer a helping hand to someone who is lonely or discouraged.]

**Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.** “Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in battle array?” Mary is the Morning Star who directs us to the Sun, her Son, Jesus Christ! [Pray the Hail, Holy Queen in honor of the Mother of Jesus.]

**Saint John of Kanty, Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Saint John basked in the love of the Most Blessed Sacrament and of Our Blessed Lady. He never tired of approaching the Tabernacle and venerating the Ever-Virgin Mother of God. [Ask Saint Joseph, to whom Wednesdays are dedicated, to help you prepare for Christmas Day and beyond.]

**Thursday of the Fourth Week of Advent, Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>.** Why do millions suffer this Christmas? The mystery of suffering is a head-scratcher; we await Heaven in order to understand it completely. But suffering is a gift insofar as it leads us to the imitation of the Suffering and Crucified Jesus. [Pray for the victims of COVID-19.]

**Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>.** *Hodie Christus natus est.* Today Christ is born. May His light always reign within us. [Celebrate Christmas with a loved one or someone who is alone.]

## **A Christmas Story**

In the October 1948 issue of *Guideposts* appeared an article by George Herman (“Babe”) Ruth, Jr. (1895-1948). That issue arrived some weeks earlier—August 16<sup>th</sup> to be exact, the day on which the extraordinary baseball player died.

What follows is an excerpt that details the importance of the Sacraments, Our Lady’s intercession through Her Miraculous Medal and the good, honest guidance offered by a friend.

In December, 1946, I was in French Hospital, New York, facing a serious operation. Paul Carey, one of my oldest and closest friends, was by my bed one night.

“They’re going to operate in the morning, Babe,” Paul said. “Don’t you think you ought to put your house in order?”

I didn't dodge the long, challenging look in his eyes. I knew what he meant. For the first time I realized that death might strike me out. I nodded, and Paul got up, called in the Priest, and I made a full Confession.

"I'll return in the morning and give you Holy Communion," Father said, "But you don't have to fast."

"I'll fast," I said. I didn't have even a drop of water.

As I lay in bed that evening I thought to myself what a comforting feeling to be free from fear and worries. I now could simply turn them over to God. Later on, my wife brought in a letter from a little kid in Jersey City.

"Dear Babe," he wrote, "Everybody in the seventh grade class is pulling and praying for you. I am enclosing a Medal which if you wear will make you better. Your pal—Mike Quinlan.

"P.S. I know this will be your 61st homer. You'll hit it."

I asked them to pin the Miraculous Medal to my pajama coat. I've worn the Medal constantly ever since. I'll wear it to my grave.

May the Soul of George Herman Ruth, Jr., rest in peace. Amen.