

FROM FATHER BILL: HAPPY LITTLE CHRISTMAS! Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The Wisemen adore Jesus at the Manger and offer Him three gifts. By the way, come to the manger today and offer yourself as a gift to Christ. **ONE GOOD THING WE CAN DO THROUGHOUT THE CITY and OUR OWN PARISHES during this NEW YEAR 2009 is to embrace each other with a heartfelt sense of unity as Catholics; to make each other feel welcome and included in each other's circles.** Remember what the Angel said at Christmas: "DO NOT BE AFRAID. CHRIST IS BORN and HAS SAVED US". Epiphany closes out the Christmas Season. Let us move forward and always remember those encouraging words of that beautiful Christmas hymn "JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME"!!

NEED HELP TO QUIT SMOKING? The Center for Smoking Cessation at Seton Health offers a six-week program to assist those who want to quit smoking. Programs are held at locations in Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Clifton Park and East Greenbush and will begin THIS WEEK on January 5, 2009. For more information and registration, please call (518) 268-6165. You may register even after January 5.

WORN OUT FROM THE HOLIDAYS? Are you looking for a way to avoid the winter blahs? Go on a special weekend just for the 2 of you. Call Ed & Rhonda Staats at 518-279-3243 or 877-697-9963 for info on the February 6-8 or March 20-22, MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS.

TODAY: PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED to take POINSIETTAS home with them following Mass. You may wish to take a plant to someone home bound or ill.

St. Peter's Church, Troy, NY celebrates its 185th Anniversary as a Parish this year, 2009. Special Events are being planned to celebrate this wonderful ANNIVERSARY of our Church. Jim Canfield chairs the Anniversary Committee.

FROM OUR LATIN PARISHIONERS: ALL ST. PETER'S PARISHIONERS (English and Latin) are invited to attend the 12 Noon Latin Tridentine Mass on Sunday, January 18, 2009. Our English Mass parishioners will have an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the Latin Tridentine Mass by attending this special Mass. A Luncheon will follow in the Lyceum.

PRAYER IN TIME OF CHANGE:

Beloved Jesus, anoint us to do your will.
May the joy of your dwelling in us draw us closer to each other,
Expand our vision to recognize your plan;
Warm our hearts by the flame of your love;
Open our lips so that we can embrace each other as your people; speak to us so we can discern the
role you have for us,
Your body, your Church.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
Empowering us to become a vital expression of growth
In your changing Church.
Your Kingdom is now!
Help us to discover and live your will. AMEN.

Bishop Hubbard has approved the Frassati Chapter as a young adult group in the diocese. I would like to begin promoting the group to attract new members. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Brian

- 518-669 - 3172.

IN RECOGNITION of the YEAR OF SAINT PAUL and to provide the people of our Diocese with sufficient opportunity to receive the graces attached to this celebration, Bishop Hubbard has identified ST. PAUL the APOSTLE CHURCH, Troy, NY as a pilgrimage site for Rensselaer County. A person who desires a plenary indulgence should be: REPENTANT of their sins/ ABSOLVED through the Sacrament of Reconciliation/ RECEIVE Holy Communion and VISIT a designated pilgrimage site and pray for the Intentions of the Holy Father. A PLENARY INDULGENCE may benefit the Christian faithful, both living and deceased, as often as the conditions are fulfilled. THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL lasts until JUNE 2009.

Parish Mission Statement:

St. Paul's, St. Peter's, and our Latin Tridentine Community established by Bishop Hubbard are a Roman Catholic Community working together in union with the Vicar of Christ on Earth. As followers of Jesus, we choose to be instruments of peace, healing and a visible sign of hope to one another and to all our neighborhoods. We profess our Faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and therefore strive to have charity toward all and animosity toward none while performing our daily duties according to the will of God.

THANK YOU to Maureen Noonan who negotiated with Santa Claus to provide candy for our young people attending Christmas Masses at St. Peter's; and also to the anonymous person who gave Father Bill money to buy candy for the children who attended the 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Paul's. Father felt he was buying too much candy. At the end of the 4 pm Christmas Mass, every single candy cane was gone. **CLOSE CALL!**

AN EPIPHANY REFLECTION: Today's Feast celebrates more than the visit of the Magi; it is the manifestation of God to all. All people are considered among God's chosen. In our limited perspective, we all like to feel that we are central to this message, not on the fringes. It's useful to remember that Jesus was not a Westerner. SINGING with Christians of every time and place offers us the potential for making room at Christ's table for all those who have been formed in God's image!

ST. PAUL'S PASTORAL COUNCIL met on December 8, 2008. GOOD STEWARDSHIP Money Saving measures were discussed – upper church is not used for weekday services except Funerals. Impossible to use the school hall for Masses because it is used by the Unity Sunshine Charter School. A considerable amount of money is saved because the upper Church thermostat is turned down to 50* and no lights are used during the week. The Adoration Chapel is heated by construction and nature. The Adoration Chapel thermostat is turned off for the winter. Council members asked Father Bill to make a plea for parishioners to give a Christmas GIFT to St. Paul's in the Christmas Collection. The Council approved the Christmas party for Altar Servers from both parishes. Plans are being made to host the next Troy Deanery meeting at St. Paul's on Tuesday, January 27, 2009.

ST. PETER'S PASTORAL COUNCIL met December 9, 2008. The need for GREETERS to assist Lisa Jennings was discussed. TWO gift bearers are needed for the 10:30 am Mass each weekend. The 185th Anniversary (2009) of St. Peter's Parish was discussed. Celebrations/Activities: Sunday, January 18, 2009, Special Noon Celebration of the Latin Tridentine Mass followed by a Celebration Lunch (all parishioners are invited to this Latin Mass and Brunch). Sunday, February 15, 2008, renewal of marriage vows at the 10:30 am Mass. Saturday, February 21, 2009, Day of Recollection sponsored by our Latin parishioners. Father Flanigan Mass and Awards Dinner, Sunday, April 26, 2009.

EVANGELIZATION: Discipulos En La Jornada.....Disciples on the Journey.