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## **CHRISTMAS FAIR TRADE GIFT BAGS**

Christmas Gift Bags are back! They will be for sale after all masses beginning in December. Each bag contains a package of Fair Trade coffee or tea and a bar of Fair Trade Chocolate. Not only do they make great gifts for co-workers and neighbors, but it is an opportunity to give a gift that is ethically responsible toward workers in other parts of the world.

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## **NEXT UP: ZUHRAH GERMAN BAND**

Oom pah pah music deluxe and the delicious smells of potluck du jour will fill Pates Hall at noon on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>! Our next Leisure Club event will feature the joyous sounds of the Zuhrah German Band. Everyone is asked to bring their best dish or dessert to share with the group. Not able to cook or bake? Bring \$6.00 as your contribution.

Please bring whatever Boxtops for Education you have so we can give generously to OLP School! For more info, contact Bernie Howell (612-724-4547) or Karlette Rizzi (612-729-1501).

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## **YOUTH CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS MASS**

Youth in 2nd grade through High School are invited to participate in Youth Choir for the 4:30 Christmas Eve Mass. Rehearsals:

*Sunday, December 3, 10, and 17, 10:00- 10:40 a.m.*

*Saturday, December 23- DRESS REHEARSAL 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.*

*Sunday, December 24- arrive at 3:45 p.m.*

\*Rehearsals take place in the Leo Room. Email [mswarhout@olpmn.org](mailto:mswarhout@olpmn.org) to participate!

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## **ADULTS INVITED TO SING FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES!**

Adults (high school and older) are invited to help with music ministry for our Christmas masses.

*Adult Choir* sings at the 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

*Ensemble* sings at the 10 a.m. Christmas Day Mass. Rehearsal begin Tuesday, November 28 at 8:00 p.m.

Choir experience is not required to participate. Please email [epike@olpmn.org](mailto:epike@olpmn.org) if you would like to participate.

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## **LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT SETUP**

We are in need of people to help set up three days this winter.

Sunday, Dec. 10 after the 11 a.m. Mass (Set up Nativity in the back of Church)

Sunday, Dec. 24 after the 10 a.m. Mass (Set up for Christmas)

Set up should take 2 hours or less for these events. Please email [epike@olpmn.org](mailto:epike@olpmn.org) if you can help!

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## **COME TO THE STABLE: A LIVE NATIVITY**

**Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm - 7 pm**

It's time once again to watch the weather reports and begin planning. We need to know if this is an event that is important to the parish and if people are willing to come forward to give a few hours to make this happen. We offer this event as a gift to our neighboring Community and as a statement to the real meaning of Christmas. Before the spotlight and animals are called in, we want to be sure our parish wants this event. These are the main spots that need to be filled:

- Set-up/Take Down - stable, lights, environment (an hour before & an hour afterward)
- Hospitality - cookies, hot chocolate, coffee (before and during the event)
- Choir/Music
- Costumes - organize and help dress actors
- Publicity
- Actors - Holy Family, Shepherds, Angels, Townspeople (three shifts)

If we can fill most of the spaces, we will go forward with planning. Contact Joy Biedrzycki if you are interested by e-mail at [jbiedrzycki@olpmn.org](mailto:jbiedrzycki@olpmn.org) or by phone at 612-223-8108.

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## **CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE**

**Saturday and Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, after each Mass.**

Get out those favorite recipes, Christmas standards and special family treats. We can use tasty contributions to help make this bake sale a success. Items can be dropped off in Pates Hall anytime on Saturday from 9am -4pm. Please mark Totally Nut-free products as such. Baking not your favorite thing? Come and help with set up and selling after one of the Mass Times. Besides the usual favorites, we also appreciate a few gluten free and dairy free items. For more information or to sign up contact Liz Hass or Krista Birt Wight.

## **UPDATE: USER FRIENDLY SPACES FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

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We received some responses to the past bulletin article; here is an update:

Bring back LWC - We have restarted our Liturgy of the Word for Children program this year and will be scheduling it most Sundays from November through May during both the 9 am and 11 am Masses.

Family Room - Suggestions: fresh paint, new carpet, new shelving, different toys, improved lighting, closed circuit TV so people in the room can see the Mass. We are in the beginning planning stages of implementing these changes with a target date of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent. *Donations are needed for this renovation as well as a few people to help make this a reality.*

Bulletins for the Children - These will be available beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup> at all entrances for parents and children to pick up before or after Mass times.

Nursing Mothers - The nursery room, which has rocking chairs available, will be open during Mass for mothers to be able to have a private space to nurse their babies as needed.

Busy Mass Bags - These are ready to be assembled but we are in need of a few more people to help sew and give ideas of what should be put in the bags.

*Are there people out there who want to help those who have already come forward? Please contact Joy B.*

### **FILL THE CRIB**

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Tandem Pregnancy & Family Resources Center (formerly Tapestry Family Resource Center) is a community that is deeply committed to providing an environment that fosters life-affirming values for the unborn, as well as the mother and father. Everything Tandem does either directly protects the sanctity of life or directly focuses on improving the quality of life. Tandem equips families with the resources they need for a healthy and successful future. Our Advent Project this year will be to fill as many cribs as possible with baby and toddler items for families who come to the Tandem. The following items are needed:

- Boys and girls clothes and jackets sizes 2T, 3T, 4T, 5, 6 & 7.
- Boys and girls clothes size 3-6 months & newborn
- Shoes & boots of all sizes
- Towels for babies and older kids
- Receiving blankets
- Thick blankets
- Educational toys
- Bottles
- Toddler spoons and plates
- Diapers - size 4, 5 & 6
- **For the Mothers:** Deodorant, shampoo & conditioner, lotion, pads, tampons, toilet paper, cocoa butter, gloves, hats, socks, slippers

If you would rather contribute money, you may place donations in the collection baskets or drop them off at the parish office beginning December 2nd; be sure to mark them for "Tandem."

### **FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AT ST. KEVIN'S CHAPEL**

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**First Friday Eucharistic Adoration will be held on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> in St. Kevin's Chapel.** This hour that you spend with Jesus may be spent in any way you want. You may bring in your own prayer books or use the books provided outside the chapel. You can read the bible, pray the rosary, or just sit, relax and enjoy the peace that comes from simply being in the Presence of God. You may feel that you can't pray well. Don't let this discourage you. The mere fact that you take time out to spend with our Lord pleases Him and is in itself a prayer of great faith. There is a sign-up schedule near the elevator outside the church, or you may sign up by e-mailing parishadmin@olpmn.org.