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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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## **SEX TRAFFICKING DISCUSSION**

Please join the OLP/Annunciation Social Justice committee for an evening with Terry Forliti. Ms. Forliti is the executive director of *Breaking Free*, an organization that provides help for those in our Metro area who have escaped the entrapment of sex trafficking. Ms. Forliti will be speaking at **St. Peter's Catholic Church, 6700 Nicollet Ave., Richfield** on **Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**, at **7:00 PM**; her presentation is entitled "S." This event is free and your free will offering of gift cards or cash will be most welcome. Donations can also be placed in the collection baskets or dropped off at the church or school offices in an envelope marked **Breaking Free**.

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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 even 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, November 19, 10:10 - 10:40 a.m. (no rehearsal November 26)*

*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.

Thursday, Nov. 30 at 5 p.m. (*Set up for Advent*)

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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## **PARISH LIBRARY**

Members of the community and staff are considering moving the parish library from the Sts. Peter and Paul rooms to Pates Hall or a space outside of Pates. We can condense the collection so it is more relevant and useful. In addition to a staff member (Joy) and a coordinator (who we may have), we need about 3 more people to help make these improvements. What does this involve?

- About 2 meetings to get changes in place.
- Being part of a maintenance crew that would rotate monthly - this would probably take a 3 hour commitment (3 times a year) to set out new selections, shelve returned books, and stamp any new books.

Interested in making this happen? Please contact Joy B. A Parish Library can be a valuable asset to the life of the community if it is set up properly in a user friendly space and is well maintained.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO FAMILIES OF OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED**

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Samuel Michael Mc Nerney, son of Michelle and Jason Mc Nerney.

Simon Steve Luckhardt, son of Sarah and Adam Luckhardt.

## **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 are going ahead with this on most Sundays from November Through May. We could use one more adult or senior high leader.

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. Two people have stepped forward to help; any more takers? *Donations are needed for this sort of renovation and installment.*

Bulletins for the Children - These will be available beginning in Advent at all entrances for parents and children to pick up before or after Mass times.

Nursing Mothers - Provide a private space where mothers can go to nurse their babies during Mass time or events. *There are rocking chairs in the Nursery - we will open that room during Mass and during events if a mom would like to use that space.*

Busy Mass Bags - We have one person who is willing to help make them; we could use one or two others help and ideas on what to put in them.

Bathrooms - Most ideas would involve a major renovation; long term planning is required.

*Are there people out there who would like to help make these suggestions a reality? Please contact Joy B.*

## **GIVING AT THANKSGIVING - A PERSPECTIVE ON THE MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE BLESSED TRINITY FROM JOY**

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The Missionary Servants of the Blessed Trinity (MSBT) Sisters have served in Puerto Rico for over 60 years. I worked with them there for 3 years back in the 70's. They originally staffed a few schools, community-outreach centers; and any missionary need that the people had. Now they work mostly in the outlying barrios and in the center of Ponce's poorest living spaces.

I wanted to include pictures but when I asked for them the Sisters here on the mainland told me they had nothing recent after the hurricane, as there was no way to transfer pictures and they were saving their limited cell phone reception and power for emergency and communication needs. They also cannot bring checks or bank cards as a way to exchange currency as there is no power or banking grid set up in the places where they are working; cash and bartering is now the only way to exchange currency. The people in these areas usually had no need for extra food as they had food supplies and water right out their widows, but with the hurricane most of this was destroyed, including a fresh water supply. This has been a difficult summer for the people with whom this community works as they also minister in the places hit by the earthquake in Mexico and in some of the poorer sections of Texas that also suffered severe hurricane damage.

Our Thanksgiving donations, however, will be specifically marked for Puerto Rico as the need seems greater here. I know they are appreciative of any help we can be and our donations will go directly to the people. The MSBT community will take care of the Sisters and have committed any extra resources they receive to the people of the barrios in Puerto Rico.



Photograph of damage in Ponce courtesy of Boston Globe.

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