

## youth group fundraiser

The Youth Group raffle for a Teleflora Crimson Christmas Bouquet has come to a close. Because of the winter weather last weekend, the winning ticket was drawn by one of our first graders on Wednesday afternoon.

The winner is:

**Cameron Schmelter**

The raffle for the bouquet donated by Charly Powell brought in \$231 for the Youth Group. Many thanks go to Charly and to the parishioners for their continued generosity and support of the Youth Group.

## attn: all faith formation classes/confirmation preparation

All Sunday morning and evening Faith Formation sessions scheduled for December 23 & 30 will not meet because of the Christmas and New Year holidays. These classes will resume on Sunday, January 6, 2008 at their regularly scheduled times.

All Wednesday Faith Formation classes scheduled for December 26 and January 2 will not meet because of the Christmas and New Year holidays. These Wednesday classes will resume on January 9, 2008 at their regularly scheduled times.

## youth group news

Youth Group will not meet on December 23 & 30 because of the Christmas and New Year holidays. We will resume on Sunday, January 6, 2008 at the regularly scheduled time.

## youth group at cornerstone

Some members of the Youth Group will be going to Cornerstone on Saturday, December 29 to prepare and serve lunch. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:50am. Questions? Please contact Rella.

## thinking of a possible vocation to the priesthood?

The Vocation Office of the Diocese of Norwich will be hosting an evening of discernment for those who think they may have a possible vocation call to the diocesan priesthood. The evening will be held at St. Mary's in Middletown on January 3, 2008 and will begin at 6:30pm. The evening will include discussion and the opportunity for questions on particular topics related to the priesthood.

Please contact Annette in the Vocation Office for more information and/or to make a reservation at 860-887-9294 (ext. 246) or E-mail [sec.voc@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:sec.voc@norwichdiocese.net). **Please note that event dates are subject to change. It is important to register for this event.**

## christmas mass schedule

Masses for Christmas will be:

**Christmas Eve –**  
4pm, 7:00pm & Midnight  
**Christmas Day –**  
Midnight & 10:30am.

(Please note:  
**there's no 8am Mass**  
on Christmas Day)

## christmas tag thank you

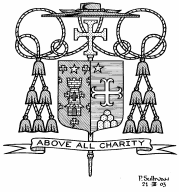
*I'd like to thank everyone for making our Christmas Tag program a great success this year. Each year I am moved at how much our little church with the big "heart" accomplishes. Thanks to your generous donations we were able to provide for three additional families. I had a terrible head cold the day Jannette needed to pick everything up and I was feeling a bit overwhelmed on how I would get it all done, but sometimes miracles arrive in small packages. Both of my kids called after school to say they did not need to be picked up, and had rides home! Wal-Mart opened a register for me and dedicated a cashier to handle the large amount of gift cards I needed to purchase. I was \$5 dollars short of obtaining one more \$100 card for a family, and the woman reached into her pocket and donated her own money. I arrived at my house and got each families pile of presents together just as Jannette pulled up with a car and a small one at that. She said this car has a big trunk, and that it was the car Tony Soprano used in the HBO show. I still can not fathom how we got it all in that car, but we did. It was indeed a Christmas miracle. We laughed and hugged, and off she went into the night with her car full more than material items. Through your charity she delivers good cheer, and hope during this special season that someone really cares. So, if anyone was to ask me if there really is a Santa Claus, I'd absolutely have to say yes, he lives in all of us.*

*Merry Christmas!*  
*Claire Crane*

## readings for the week

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24  
Monday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79  
Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25  
or 1:18-25  
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18  
or 1:1-5, 9-14  
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22  
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35  
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21  
or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

\* Note: Some groups meeting at Sacred Heart including but not limited to *The Red Cross, Vernon Jr. Women's Club, Brownies, Cubs, Alcoholics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book* and *Narcotics Anonymous* are not part of and not acting on behalf of the Parish or the Diocese



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MOST REVEREND  
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

**Christmas Message 2007**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas! May the peace of the Christ-child abide with you and all whom you love.

The joy of Christmas is seen across the landscape of our communities. Christmas decorations tell the glory of Christ's birth and the good news that God is in our midst. In Jesus Christ God is made visible. "No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made Him known." (John 1:18) "In Christ we see our God made visible and so are caught up in love of the God we can not see." (Christmas Preface I)

As Christmas lights shine brightly in the darkness of winter's nights, they truly sparkle with the joy of this sacred event. Their warm glow silently speaks the truth that on this day in Bethlehem, Jesus, the light of the world, is born. Their radiance invites us to follow the Christ-child, the light of life. (cf John 8:12)

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, what is it that we most want for Christmas? No matter what our resources are, most of us – if not all of us – want what we can not buy. We want the joy that comes from peace, the healing that flows from forgiveness, and the happiness that is born of love.

These are the very gifts that Jesus' birth offers to all who accept Him. "To all who did accept Him, He gave the power to become children of God, to all who believe in the Name of Him who was born...of God Himself." (John 1:12-13) By the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus' birth, we become children of God who call God, Father, and we are made co-heirs with Christ...so as to share in His glory. (cf Romans 8:14-17)

In a meditation on Christmas one spiritual writer challenges us to live Christmas. "When Christmas comes around, we are attracted to the Light of Christ. We find comfort in the sunshine of Christmas good will. But when the Holy Day is over, we tend to put the Christmas spirit back on 'hold' again. And, in so doing, we thwart the very purpose of Christmas. In giving His Son, 'as light of the world,' God's purpose is to transform us into children of Light, giving us the power to radiate His love, moment-to-moment, and for a lifetime."

Let Christmas transform you and change you forever! Let Christ's birth and the power of the Spirit enlighten you to live as God's sons and daughters. Open your hearts to receive the power to radiate Christ's love and to live Christmas not for a day but for all time.

This Christmas, please join me in prayer for our families whose loved ones serve in the military and for those who serve in harm's

way in Iraq and Afghanistan. Let us join with families across this nation and around the world in praying for peace. In this time of war, we ardently pray for peace and for change in hearts that hate. The Savior has been born for each one of us. Let his peace reign in our hearts, our homes, our world!

Merry Christmas! May the spirit of Christmas be with you throughout 2008 and always. For today in Christ, a new light has dawned upon the world. God has become one with us and we have become one again with God. (cf Christmas Preface III)

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

*Dear Sacred Heart Parish Family,*

*This will be our first Christmas as part of the Sacred Heart Family. We are starting to feel "settled in" to the new surroundings and the new routine. From the very beginning we felt welcomed, accepted and wanted by you. This has been a blessing to us and we hope to return the blessing. Thank you. Our wish is that the miracle of Christmas once again fills you with a joy and peace that continues through the new year.*

*With love,  
Carol and Larry Deraleau*

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**keep  
the message  
of christ in christmas**  
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Unemployment and high fuel prices mean that more people will be hungry and cold this winter than ever.

Please make an extra effort to remember to bring canned goods, non-perishables and clean warm clothing in good condition with you to Mass, and consider adding a dollar to your electric bill to benefit "Operation Fuel" or making a generous donation outright to The Cornerstone.

**"Whatsoever you do to the least of my people,  
that you do unto me."**

DECEMBER 23, 2007

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## the work of the church

<b>SATURDAY</b> 5:00pm	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mass: <i>Drew Iadarola, 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</i> , requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family
<b>SUNDAY</b> 8:00am 10:30am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mass: <i>Dorothy Bean</i> , requested by the DuFresnes Mass: <i>Anna Viscogliosi</i> , requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family Catechists & Families
<b>MONDAY</b> 4:00pm 7:00pm	<b>VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS</b> Mass: <i>Father Ralph Kelley</i> , requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family Mass: <i>Deceased Member of the Lutton &amp; Donahue Families</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b> 12:00mn 10:30am  Please Note:	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> Midnight Mass: <i>For the People of the Parish</i> Mass: <i>Fred DeFeo</i> , requested by Irving & Barbara Goldin There is <b>NO 8am MASS</b> on Christmas Day
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR No Services
<b>THURSDAY</b> 4:30-6:00pm 7:00pm 7:45pm	JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> , Living Room Mass: <i>Mary Ramos</i> , requested by Father Stan <b>Intercessory Prayer</b> , Eucharistic Chapel
<b>FRIDAY</b> 9:00am	HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS Mass: <i>Al Bousquet</i> , requested by his family
<b>SATURDAY</b> 5:00pm	HOLY FAMILY Mass: <i>Robert &amp; Dorothy Selinsky</i> , requested by Bob & Patty Selinsky and Sons
<b>SUNDAY</b> 8:00am 10:30am	HOLY FAMILY Mass: <i>For Those In Whose Memory Christmas Flowers Were Donated</i> Mass: <i>Gail Slajda</i> , requested by Zagura & Litwin Families

## meetings

<b>SATURDAY</b> 7:00pm	<b>Narcotics Anonymous*</b> , Northeast Rooms
<b>SUNDAY</b> NO NO NO	<b>Good Fellowship &amp; Tasty Goodies after Mass</b> <b>Faith Formation Levels K – 4</b> <b>Faith Formation Levels 6 - Conf Prep</b> <b>Youth Group</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	Offices Closed
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Offices Closed
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> NO 8:00pm	Offices Closed <b>Faith Formation Levels 1,2,4,5</b> <b>Alcoholics Anonymous*</b> , South Community Rooms
<b>THURSDAY</b> 10:00am 7:45pm 8:00pm	Offices Closed <b>Bible Study</b> , South Community Rooms <b>Intercessory Prayer</b> , Eucharistic Chapel <b>Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book*</b> , South Community Rooms
<b>SATURDAY</b> 7:00pm	<b>Narcotics Anonymous*</b> , Northeast Rooms
<b>SUNDAY</b> NO NO NO	<b>Good Fellowship &amp; Tasty Goodies after Mass</b> <b>Faith Formation Levels K – 4</b> <b>Faith Formation Levels 6 - Conf Prep</b> <b>Youth Group</b>