



# YOUTH NEWS

## January, 2012



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### Jottings from Joe

Every year since we've been married, my wife and I have celebrated Christmas in Wisconsin with her family. Our route has changed a few times over the past 20 plus years, usually depending on construction around Chicago. The brand new Honda Civic we drove up in 1992 with plenty of room in the back seat has long since given way to a minivan stuffed to the gills with kids and gifts. Celebrating with extended family at Mary's grandparents' old house on the south side of Milwaukee has morphed into time with immediate family at my in-laws' condo in the suburbs. Staying with Mary's parents' has been replaced by a few nights in a nearby hotel. We've gone to Christmas Eve Mass at about a half dozen different churches. We've survived snowstorms, blackouts, 40 car pile-ups, flat tires and blown transmissions.

Much has changed over the years, and it seems like there are very few sure bets anymore (can't even count on snow every year anymore), but some things have remained constant. Christmas Eve dinner is always fish and shrimp. Before we eat we share oplatki (flat wafers of bread—like rectangular Communion hosts) and wish each other Merry Christmas. From the way we open gifts to what we eat, rituals fill the experience. You probably have your own Christmas rituals—things you know you can count on for Christmas. And in ways, it seems like it's the rituals that hold the whole thing together, that bind people and events and time and space.

Mass is like that for us Catholics. Sure we've seen some changes over the years, especially in the last month, but the essential reality that God shares his Body, Blood Soul and Divinity with us remains constant. In fact, the Mass itself has remained essentially unchanged since the first century, which means that each time we go to Mass we are bound to God, yes, but also to billions of Catholics past and present and future who join in the feast. So as 2011 fades into the past and the New Year dawns, let us all hold fast to the one thing that is truly timeless—God and his limitless love.

Happy New Year!

### Saint of the Month: St. Raymond of Pennefort

St. Raymond of Pennafort, born in Spain in 1175, was a relative of the King of Aragon. From childhood he had a tender love and devotion to the Blessed Mother. He finished his studies at an early age, and became a famous teacher. He then gave up all his honors and entered the Order of the Dominicans. St. Raymond was very humble



and very close to God. He did much penance and was so good and kind that he won many sinners to God. With King James of Aragon and St. Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom. The brave religious of this Order devoted themselves to saving Christians captured by the Moors who were too poor to pay their ransoms.

He also was a brilliant lawyer, compiling the legal decrees of the Church which were the basis for Church law until the Code of Canon Law was issued in 1917.

Once he went with King James to the Island of Majorca to preach about Jesus. There on the Island, James began committing adultery. When Raymond commanded him stop, the King said he would, but did not keep his promise. So St. Raymond decided to leave the Island. The King declared he would punish any ship captain who brought the Saint back to Barcelona. Putting all his trust in God, Saint Raymond spread his cloak upon the water, tied up one corner of it to a stick for a sail, made the Sign of the Cross, stepped onto the cloak, and sailed along for six hours until he reached Barcelona. This miracle moved the King. He was sorry for what he had done, and he became a true follower of Jesus. St. Raymond was one hundred years old at the time of his death.

- adapted from [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)

Ascension Youth Ministry on the web @ [www.ascensionkettering.org/youth-ministry](http://www.ascensionkettering.org/youth-ministry)

# Coming Events:

**January** (Celebration of Life Month - Thank your Mom for yours!!)

1 New Year's Day **No HomeLIFE**

6 Epiphany

**08 Alternate 7:00 Hour of Praise at St. Luke**

**15 HomeLIFE**

16 MLK Jr. Day



**21-24 March for Life Washington, DC**



**21-22 HS and JrH Family Ski Trip**

**22 No Alternate Meeting**

**29 Alternate 7-9 YMR "Winter Blahs"**

**February** (National Time Management Month—*See if you can pencil that in*)

**5 Souper Bowl of Caring (8th-12th grades)**

**12 Alternate**

14 Valentine's Day

**19 HomeLIFE**

20 Presidents Day

22 Ash Wednesday

**24-26 HS Winter Retreat**



**S.O.A.R. to WV this summer!**



This summer we'll do our annual summer work-camp in beautiful Mingo County, WV! **Registrations are being accepted now through January 16.** Space is limited to 15 youth and 3 adults, so get your registration in ASAP! All forms are available on our [SOAR Summer Service](#) webpage, as well as more detailed information about registration, the Mingo County area, the schedule for the week, and more.

## The Alternate

**January 08 Hour of Praise**

Join us at ST. LUKE for an hour of awesome live music w/ Nick Cardilino. Meet at St. Luke Church.

- January 22 **March for Life/Ski Trip**  
**No Alternate Meeting**

- January 29 **Winter Blahs**

Gray skies and cold weather get you down? Discover some great ways to beat the Winter Blahs!

All 9th to 12 graders are welcome to the Alternate—no matter what school, no matter what parish or church—Catholic, non-Catholic, doesn't matter. You'll be accepted just as you are.

*H.S. Winter Retreat*

*Feb 24-26*



Planning is in full swing for this year's Winter Retreat. Once again we'll be out at Camp Kirkwood in Wilmington, OH for a weekend guaranteed to bring you closer to God and each other. Look for registration materials soon!

**See the website for Ski Trip info! Packets also available at the church doors.**

**Registration deadline January 10**

