



first Sunday JANUARY 2008

COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS

Liturgy Schedules

10:00 SUNDAY, Crosswood Centre, Chapel of Mary Magdalene, 5355 Co. Rd. 35, Auburn, IN 46706-9717

10:15 AM SUNDAY, Fort Wayne at Redwood Chapel, 2425 Redwood Avenue, Fort Wayne *thanks to Rose and Stan*

9:00 AM SUNDAY, Angola at our new location at 3472 North Wayne Street (the building behind the house across from the barn) starting January 13th.

PLEASE NOTE: On the First Sunday of the Month we follow with a pitch-in brunch after worship with plenty of time for fellowship, both North and South as a result, we do not have liturgy in Angola or Fort Wayne on the First Sundays of the month

New North Location

We now have a new location for Liturgy and other activities for the North Community in Angola courtesy of the Kelly's. It is located on North Wayne Street in Angola, just after Menards and at the base of the hill that rises up heading toward Pokagon State Park. (It's the next drive after the "Psychic Readings" sign heading north on Wayne Street.) It is a beautiful site and quite well suited for a chapel with an office for Fr. Jim Spink, Fr. Skip Carsten and for some community oriented programs. The property is pictured below and the building behind the house and across from the bar will be the one we will be using.

In return for such generosity, it will be necessary to get four or five able folks to learn to ride golf course lawn mowers during the grass-cutting season (about seven months out of the year) for the time necessary to do the job of mowing the golf course. What a great gift! The mowing is a good way to say *Thank You* to these thoughtful and generous Kellys. Services will commence at Crosswood North January 13th.



Crosswood North

Rescape

Gail Kelly, half of the dynamic duo that has donated upwards of a quarter million to Crosswood in the past four years, suggests that we take down the present garage so that landscaping can be done to make the chapel area more presentable. We're planning on erecting a very basic pole barn to the east of the animal barn to shelter all the vehicles and heavy equipment. Gail is hopeful that a few folks will come forward and help out with the estimated cost of \$10,000.

Fr. +Skip

Many Thanks!

Many thanks to the pastor and members of the Congregational Church in Angola, for housing us so kindly in the Wedding Chapel for the past several years. Blessings upon you and yours!

Fr. +Skip

When you pray...

Vicki Groves has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. The surgeon is wanting to watch it for a bit before doing anything. Her husband, Paul is going in for a bypass on January 7. Brother Richard Lounsbury had surgery on his leg December 27. Remember always our benefactors also!



The Turtle Factor

It's been a "turtle" rather than a "hare" sort of thing - the second floor of the chapel. Al Patterson and Cliff Polubinsky have put a lot of time in on this project. It looks like Andy Carroll, Gary Harp and his brother, Jim Brenock, and the rest of us will need to pull together to get the job done soon. Why soon? Because our benefactors want it done soon and because the carpet needs to be put down soon (or we lose our free help). Please respond with your time for the next four or five weeks. Please - contact Fr. Skip if you have time.

Fr. +Skip

Leadership Team

The leadership team skipped the December meeting due to very inclement weather - and busy schedules. The next meeting is the 2nd Saturday in January, January 12th. Please try to attend and all are welcome as usual. We will meet around 12:00 during the lunch break for the work day that will be going on that day - hopefully many will be there to join us.

Wishlist

The following list was put together at the last Team Leader's meeting. If you find it in your hearts, time, or pocket book to donate some of these things, it would be appreciated:

A **vacuum cleaner** that works - emphasis on works - it doesn't have to do the job by itself but it has to provide the suction. We have one now and need another in the near future.

Swifter Duster

Swifter Dustmop or Floor Swifter

Windex, furniture polish, cleaning supplies for the chapel

Volunteer time to clean the chapel

Leadership Team

If you need to contact the Leadership Committee, here are their numbers:

Fr. Skip Carsten*, 260-927-6040 (numeric pager)

Fr. Vince Cuestas, 426-8885

Mother Kris'ta Cuestas, 426-8885

Mr. Ken Erlenbaugh, Core Team North, 833-1313

Mr. Stan Gephart, Core Team South

Ms. Carolyn Hurley, Core Team South, 484-8380

Email: ceclectics@verizon.net

Fr. John Newbauer, 615-0156

Email: jfn3253@comcast.net

Mother Joan North, 833-3412

Fr./Dcn Tom North, 833-3412

Fr. Cliff Polubinsky 493-4223

Br. Richard Lounsbury & Stella 260-336-2276

Mr. Scott Rutsey, Crosswood Treasurer

Fr. James Spink

Fr. Robert Zahrt, 471-6573

End of Year Financial Reckoning

Balance as of 9/4/07: \$7,355.74

EXPENSES:

Redwood	156.00
Building Materials	1,159.62
USPS	94.00
Food for Poor	120.00
Building Materials	300.00
Grief Group Gift	100.00
Auburn Utilities (Electric)	146.00
Tractor and Vehicle Repair	600.00
Housekeeping	75.00
Personal Loan	700.00
Building Materials	300.00
Building Materials	534.00
Liturgy Musicians	100.00
Auburn Utilities	124.00
Light Repair	27.00
Scaffolding Rent	154.00
Sam's Club (Food)	245.00
AT&T (phone)	78.00
Liturgical Materials	300.00
Food for Poor	150.00
Tractor Parts	85.00
Gifts for Volunteers	190.00
Housekeeping	75.00
Painting (Crosswood North)	500.00
Auburn Utilities	235.00
Waste Management	110.20
State Farm Insurance	2,147.00
Expenses Total	10,043.62

INCOME

September	\$450.00
October	1,810.00
November	7,055.00
December	3,500.00
Income TOTAL	12,815.00
12/30/07 BALANCE	10,127.12

COMMENTS

December-April fuel costs are around \$2,500.00. The chapel building cost is estimated to be \$7000.00. The normal monthly budget, over and above the expenses remains about \$1,300.00. We would be terribly in debt were it not for the Youels, who donated \$16,000 in the past six months. Bless all of you who have contributed!

+Skip

Annual Meeting

First Sunday in December was our annual community meeting. We had several guests there from the Retreat. Updates were made of both North and South Communities and as you can see the North Community has obtained a new property for their use in Angola, thanks to our friends, the Kellys. There were no major new issues discussed other than to continue as we are and work on three main issues this year: growth for the communities, completion of our building projects (Chapel upstairs and Crosswood North), and development of financial resources. Several things were mentioned regarding finances with the emphasis on developing a trust fund for Crosswood. Little projects were also included such as a vending machine for soda and participation in Meijers community rewards program and also Hall's Restaurants rewards programs.

Long Range Finances

At the Community Meeting there was discussion of the importance of a trust large enough so that the Centre could pretty much operate off the interest. We need some bequests, some substantial gifts, to accomplish this goal. And we simply cannot ask more from those who have already given so much.... Time to get our heads together!

+Skip

ONLINE PROBLEMS??

We keep bumping into people who are NOT getting a copy of **First Sunday** online. Please contact Fr. John either by phone at 260-615-0156 or by email at jfn3253@aol.com if you are not getting your copy or you know someone who has this problem. Also let Fr. John know if you know of someone who wants to receive a copy of our monthly bulletin online. One more thing is to check your junk mail settings and make sure you haven't set jfn3253@aol.com as a junk email account or a blocked email account. Sometimes that happens pretty easily and then you don't get any more mail from me. And we both know you don't want that to happen.

John+

Annual Retreat

On Saturday, December 1 we had our annual retreat at Auburn, led by Fr. Yanchy Lascka. We had a great day reflecting on our theme of "Following the Star" to Bethlehem. We had several guests joining our community for the retreat and it was a good time of preparation for the hustle and bustle of Christmas, as well as this coming year. We will hold another retreat in the spring. Keep your eyes out for the dates.

John+



Group Shot of Retreatants

Rev. MariaAlene Van-Valkenburg Joins OCCA

If you look in the picture above, you will notice a woman with a Roman Collar sitting in the middle of the group. You may also have noticed that she has been attending liturgies with us recently. This is a long time friend of several of Frs. Skip and John and Bob. She currently serves as pastor of the "Open Door Chapel" in Fort Wayne and will continue as their pastor after her ordination as a presbyter in the Orthodox-Catholic Church of America on January 13.

Maria's journey to OCCA has been a long and winding road that includes some major health obstacles that tend to limit the amount of time she can be "up and about." She has already gifted us with her sewing talents and wisdom through her comments at the retreat and in chapel. Please join us in welcoming her to OCCA by participating in her ordination on Sunday, January 13, at 1:00 at the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene in Auburn.

New Series for Monday and Wednesday School

Starting the week after New Year's, January 7 for Monday and January 9th for Wednesday, Fr. Skip will begin a new video series for Monday and Wednesday School. This series is a multi-video history of the Church from Apostolic Times to the Reformation. The series was produced with the cooperation of leading Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Reformation scholars. It is anticipated that it will last approximately a year - not to worry - if you miss some you can always catch up without any problems. This is a wonderful way to learn from where the Church has come and how it has grown in different ways, met the challenges throughout its history, and continues to grow as a living organism that is the Body of Christ.

Our discussion study groups continue to be held in Fort Wayne at Redwood Chapel on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 and in the Angola area on Wednesdays at Karen Ringle's home at 3420 Orland Rd. from 6:30 - 8 pm.

JOIN US and BRING A FRIEND! This will truly be looking at the Church from many different angles.

Bloopers from Some Other Church Bulletins

The Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

Don't let worry kill you, let the church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The service will close with Little Drops of Water. One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in. *(I assume this is a song)*

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

(Being the editor, I know how easily these kinds of things can happen - they are still very funny. John+)

READINGS FOR JANUARY

New Year's Day January 1, 2008

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalm 8 Revelation 21:1-6a Matthew 25:31-46

Epiphany of the Lord

January 6, 2008 Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord

January 13, 2008 Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 20, 2008 Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 I Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42

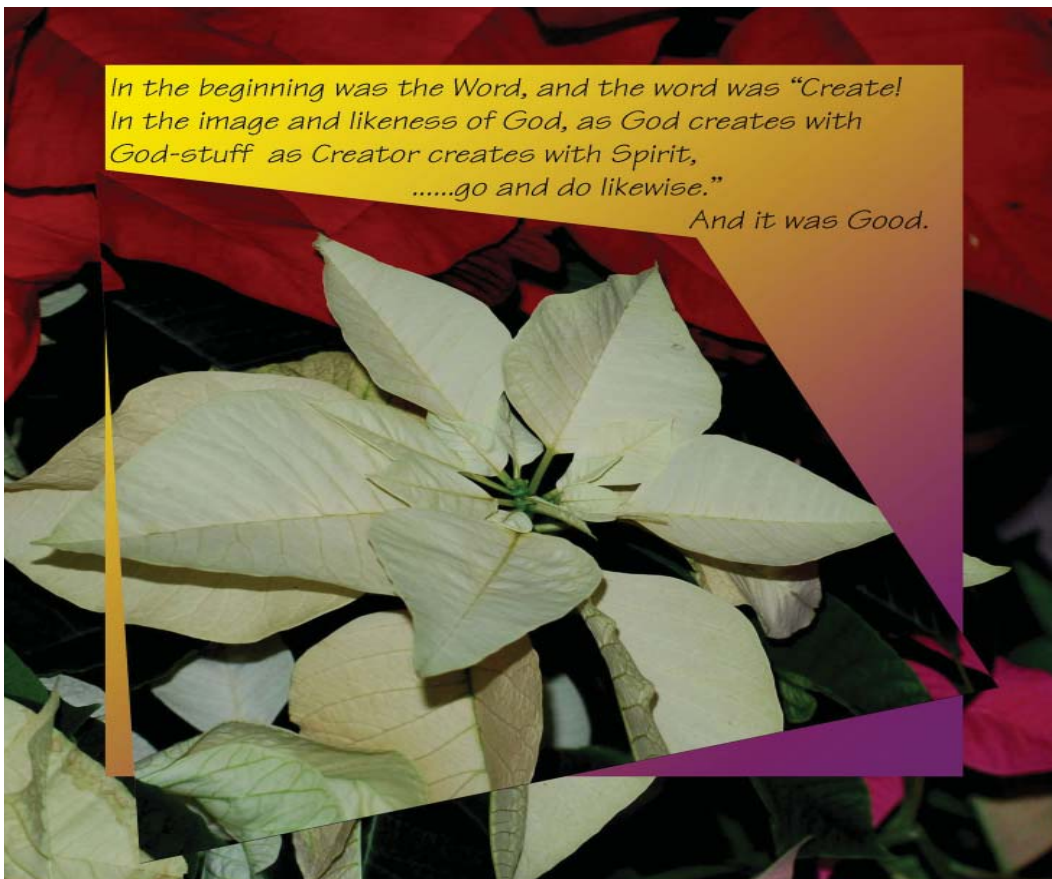
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 27, 2008 Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 I Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

Transfiguration Sunday

(Last Sunday Before Lent)

February 3, 2008 Exodus 24:12-18 Ps. 2 or Ps. 99 II Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9



January Presiders

Auburn:

January 1, +Skip
January 6, Joan+
January 13, +Vince
January 20, Bob+
January 27, +Vince
February 3, John+

Angola:

January 13, +Skip
January 20, Joan+
January 27, Bob+

Fort Wayne

January 13, Cliff+
January 20, +Skip
January 27, Cliff+