

## Christmas Blessings & Welcome to

### ST. MARIA GORETIT PARISH

Coal Valley, IL

December 25, 2011

Fr. Jim DeBisschop, Pastor

Sr. Sandra Brunenn, O.S.B., Pastoral Associate

Mary Heiar, Director of Religious Education

Nancy Robison, Administrative Asst.

### Mass Intentions

#### Christmas Eve

4:00 PM For All Our Parish Families  
4:00 PM For All Our Parish Families - MLOP  
9:30 PM For All Our Parish Families  
11:00 PM For All Our Parish Families - MLOP

#### \*Christmas Day

8:30AM For All Our Parish Families - MLOP  
10:00AM For All Our Parish Families

#### Monday (Dec. 26.)

No Mass

#### Tuesday (Dec. 27)

7:45 AM Fr. Bernard Horzen O.S.B. by Fr. Jim - MLOP

#### Wednesday (Dec. 28)

9:00 AM Special Intention of EVG

#### Thursday (Dec. 29)

7:45 AM Julius & Iva Mae Tholl by the Tholl Family-MLOP

#### Friday (Dec. 30)

No Mass at SMG or Hope Creek

#### New Year's Eve

4:00 PM For Our Military & Their Families  
4:00 PM Gladys Junker by VanDerSnick Family - MLOP

#### \*Sunday, January 1, 2012

#### Solemnity of Mary

8:30AM Lou Ann Molburg by Mary Johnson - MLOP  
10:00AM For All Our Parish Families

#### December 25, 2011 - January 1, 2012

Christmas Day- [Is 62:11-12](#); [Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12](#); [Titus 3:4-7](#);  
[Lk 2:15-20](#)

Monday - [Acts 6:8-10](#); [7:54-59](#); [Ps 31:3-4, 6, 7, 8, 17, 21](#);  
[Mt 10:17-22](#)

Tuesday - [1John 1:1-4](#); [Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12](#); [Jn 20:2-8](#)

Wednesday - [1John 1:5--2:2](#); [Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7-8](#); [Mt 2:13-18](#)

Thursday - [1John 2:3-11](#); [Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 5-6](#); [Lk 2:22-35](#)

Friday - [Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14](#); [Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5](#); [Col 3:12-21](#);  
[Lk 2:22-40](#) or [2:22, 39-40](#)

Saturday - [1John 2:18-21](#); [Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13](#); [Jn 1:1-18](#)

Sunday - [Num 6:22-27](#); [Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8](#); [Gal 4:4-7](#); [Lk 2:16-21](#)

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their  
flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.

-- Howard Thurman, African-American mystic

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES' FAMILIES

Thank you for bringing so much joy  
to Catholic Charities' clients during  
The Christmas season!

By providing Christmas gifts you made  
this time of year more enjoyable  
for those in need.

Your generosity is overwhelming.  
May you, all of your family, and community  
members enjoy a Blessed Christmas  
and Joyous New Year.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Peoria  
Rock Island Staff

#### **\*PLEASE NOTE**

There will NOT be a 7AM or 11:30 AM Mass  
on Christmas or New Year's Day.

## Always in His Peace



Dear Friends,

Blessings of Christmas and of the New Year to come.

We rejoice as people of faith as we celebrate the joy of Christmas--that our God came to us as a baby so that we could behold the face of God. As the Shepherds and the Magi drew near that lowly manger in Bethlehem and beheld the wonder of God made flesh, so too do we draw near and ponder the gift from God of his only Son.

What does this mean for you and for me? How will this Christmas celebration help us to be like the Shepherds and Magi? To be forever changed by the birth of this child, who is Christ and Lord.

On behalf of the parish I welcome those of you who are visitors, our extended family members who have traveled here to be with family and also those in our local community. May those of us who normally do not come to church find a church home in us. You are always welcomed!

May God bless you and everyone.

In his Peace,

*Father Jim*



## The Legend of the Candy Cane

The candy cane is indeed a very special candy!

As we look at the candy cane we will notice that... it looks like a miniature shepherd's staff.

Like the staff of the shepherds who were the first ones to see the Christ child.

It also looks like a letter "J" the first letter of our savior's name, Jesus.

The stripes represent several things.

This simple piece of candy really makes you think about one's faith.

As the Prophet Isaiah said, "By his stripes we are healed." Before he died on the cross, our Savior Jesus was viciously whipped and bled. Therefore, the red of the candy cane reminds us of his suffering and his blood. But part of the candy cane is white. That represents the purity we have when, by his blood, are sins are washed away.

The candy cane is suppose to have three red stripes, though some candy canes have several stripes of red. Three stripes represent the three persons of the Trinity.