





## From the Pastor....

**The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Monday, December 12, honors our Blessed Mother as mother of the Americas. Appearing to Saint Juan Diego she ushered in a powerful era of the mercy of God being poured out upon the peoples of the Americas. I invite everyone to get up early in the morning for a special morning prayer called, "Mananitas." The songs and scriptures invites us to ponder the great work of God worked through St. Juan Diego who responded to the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mother 500 years ago. Mass will be at 5:30 pm, followed by a grand fiesta! Aztec dancers in full dress will recall the delight their nation felt in being visited by Our Blessed Mother by dancing in her honor. So plan to make it an evening, and celebrate our faith, being enriched by rich prayer, the beautiful music and dance of Latino and Aztec cultures, and delicious Latino homemade foods. This is truly one of the highlights of our parish life. If you have not attended the mass and fiesta in past years, do come this year.

This song, the *Las Mañanitas* or birthday song, expresses the joy of this day:

*Wake up my dear, wake up,  
see that the day has dawned,  
the birds sing, the moon has set.  
How lovely is the morning in which I come to greet you,  
we all come with joy and pleasure to congratulate you.  
The dawn has come, the light of the day is given to us.  
Get up with the morning and see that it has dawned.*

Through The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** we prepare for our celebration of Christ's birth. We have many opportunities over the next few weeks to receive this sacrament. I invite you, *with your family*, to avail yourself to this beautiful sacrament.

- Mondays at 5:30 pm (DM)
- Fridays at 8:00 am (DM)
- Saturdays at 8:00 am and 9:00 am (DM)
- **Saturday, December 17 from 9:00 – noon at St. Patrick (numerous priests)**
- Tuesday, December 20 from 3 to 8pm (DM) (numerous priests)

Keep our second graders in your prayers as on Sunday December 18, 2011 they and their families will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 1:30 pm (DM)

If it has been awhile or you are just looking for some good points on this sacrament check out:

[www.johnpaul2center.org/Catechesis/Links/Penance.htm](http://www.johnpaul2center.org/Catechesis/Links/Penance.htm) .

"Sacred Scripture speaks to us of this reconciliation, inviting us to make every effort to attain it. But Scripture also tells us that

it is above all a merciful gift of God to humanity. The history of salvation – the salvation of the whole of humanity as well as of every human being of whatever period – is the wonderful history of a reconciliation: the reconciliation whereby God, as Father, in the blood and the cross of his Son made man, reconciles the world to himself and thus brings into being a new family of those who have been reconciled." (Blessed Pope John Paul II, Reconciliation and Penance, Par #6)

Awaiting for Christ to return,  
*Father Kevin Finnegan*



## From our Parish Nurse

**Lorraine Dudley**  
**FLU SEASON IS HERE AGAIN!!**

It is not too late to receive a flu vaccination. Check with your health care provider or Rice County public health. Please cover coughs or sneezes with your arm or sleeve. Maintain good hand washing at all times, eat properly and get plenty of rest.

**January 22, 2012** will mark the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's tragic decision to legalize abortion. This year the Office of Marriage Family and Life will be Celebrating a *Mass for Life* instead of an Ecumenical Prayer Service as the date falls on a Sunday. Archbishop Nienstedt will be the celebrant for this special Noon Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul. . **YES, this does count as your Sunday obligation** so come as a family to attend together. The MCCL Rally at the state capitol will follow the Mass. Last year this inspiring event was attended by approximately 3,000 people.

Over 50 million unborn babies have been aborted since 1973. Please join others in this opportunity to pray for these children of God as well as the men and women who suffer because of the decision they made to terminate a pregnancy. Contact the Marriage Family and Life office at 651.291.4506 or [wilsons@archspm.org](mailto:wilsons@archspm.org) with questions.



## KC 889 Korner...

(17 Third Street NE –Ph.507.334.4918)

*KC Family Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> serving 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Pancakes, sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee, juice or milk. All Welcome!*

**The KC Hall in Faribault is available** for weddings, anniversaries, fundraisers, graduation parties, dinners, family gatherings. Call Rick Scheil at 507.334.4918 for information.