

# St. Philip's Weekly Newsletter

## December 22, 2021

Dear St. Philip's family,

This week's newsletter is a little early, owing to the busy-ness of the holidays and various schedules. I hope you enjoy it!

### **Prayer Concerns and Notes of Praise...**

- Lou and Nancy Holian request your prayers for their close friend, Lisbeth Bergman. Lis has entered hospice with a case of Covid that is extremely severe. Please pray for a miracle. Pray that Lis and her family would know the comfort and peace of God. And I would also ask you to pray for Nancy and Lou. It's so painful to have a beloved friend who is suffering. God help everyone touched by this sorrow.
- Pray for the Jenssens – they just came through a very hard week of needing EMT services several times, an E-R run and other challenges.
- I ask your prayers for Jack Notzen as he is undergoing some cardio tests.
- (We can rejoice in several answers to prayer in the past few days. Michelle Webb's grandfather - Wilbur Cavender - has recovered from a heart attack and is resting comfortably at home. Ida Butler's mother, Roberta, has bounced back from a health scare and is much-improved. Karen Porzak was back in church after a terrible case of shingles. She is not 100% but is feeling considerably better. And Juan Musante - my future father-in-law - came through his surgery Friday with flying colors. Please continue to pray that each of them would gain more strength with each new day.

- Let's continue to pray for the thousands of people in the U.S. and in the Philippines who have been killed, injured or left homeless by devastating storms. Pray, too, for first responders and for the many helping and relief agencies that are coming to their aid.
- Give thanks for the wedding anniversaries of Ron and Ann Fischer as well as Rita and John Mullins! And thank God for the birthdays this week of Dolores Kampert, Jada Kampert and Pat Peterson. God bless each and every one of you!
- Give thanks for the beautiful job done by dozens of parishioners during Sunday's "greening of the church". The place looks amazing and folks involved had a lot of fun doing it. Thank you, Bonnie, for coordinating!
- And as ever - let's keep on praying for those on our list with ongoing medical or other needs. We pray for Deacon Dan; Bill Peterson; Linda Purcell; Carrol Hercules; Ann Fischer; Kim McDonald; Steve Francois; Andreas Kistner; Marge; Christina Guzman; Peggy and Don; Bruce Fichte; Chris Trotti; Levi Tsu and his family; Scott Garske; Tracy Grummer; Joe and Toni Saladino; Lian Thian; and Molly and her parents - Laura and David.

In the wider Church, please pray for...

- The Ministry of ECW (Episcopal Church Women) in our diocese and across the national church.
- The clergy and people of St. Columba of Iona Episcopal Church in Hanover Park - Rev. Roberto Pamatmat, Vicar.
- The members and leaders at Second Baptist Church of Palatine - Rev. Dexter Gardner, Pastor.

## **This Week's Quiz...**

...is about the Christmas story (of course!)

1. Which Angel told Mary she would conceive a son who would be God's Messiah? (Raphael; Michael; Gabriel; Uriel; Clarence)
2. Where Did Mary and Joseph live before Jesus was born? (Nazareth; Jerusalem; Bethlehem; Jericho; Capernaum)
3. Who visited the Holy Family on the night Jesus was born? (The Innkeeper; Shepherds; Wise Men and Shepherds; A Drummer Boy; All of the Above)
4. Jesus is sometimes called "Emmanuel" (also spelled "Immanuel"). What does this epithet mean? (Anointed One; Messiah; Son of Man; Deliverer; God With Us)
5. Bethlehem was also known by another name. What was it? (City of David; City of Herod; City of Samuel; City of Peace; City of Prophecy)

Answers are at the end of the newsletter. Hope you enjoy!

## **This Week in Christian History...**

- On December 19th, 1903: Sikh teenager Sundhar Singh experiences a vision of Jesus Christ and begins a life of Christian ministry, much to the consternation of his family. His family would eventually shun him and there is some indication they may have attempted to poison him. Singh would make many trips from India into Tibet, where he would preach the Gospel. He would be severely persecuted there. In 1929, a sickly Singh would make a final trip into Tibet and would never be heard from again.
- On December 20th, 1909: William Temple, who will become Archbishop of Canterbury, is made deacon of Canterbury Cathedral. He is an advocate of the common man and active in social issues but still unsure of the doctrine of the resurrection. But by 1913, Temple fully commits himself to the orthodox position.
- On December 21st, 1807: Death in London, England, of John Newton, author of the hymn "Amazing Grace."
- On December 22nd, 1850: Henry Budd becomes the first person of First Nations ancestry ordained to the Anglican priesthood. He will work a large area of Western Canada and translate the Bible and Prayer Book into the Cree language.
- On December 23rd, 1873: Women of Hillsboro, Ohio, march to the places that serve liquor in town and by appeals and prayer shut most of them down. Within fifty days, saloons in two hundred and fifty Ohio cities will also be shut down.
- On December 24th, 1784: The first General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America convenes in Baltimore, Maryland, at Lovely Lane Chapel.
- On December 25th, 597: Thousands of Anglo-Saxons are baptized by the missionary Augustine, an important date in the Christianization of Southern England.

*With thanks to the Christian History Institute*

## **NEWS BRIEFS...**

(PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI) – The remaining members of a U.S. missionary group who were kidnapped two months ago in Haiti have been freed, Haitian police and the church group tell the Associated Press. The spokesman for Haiti's National Police, Gary Desrosiers, confirmed that the hostages had been released, but did not immediately provide additional details. "We glorify God for answered prayer — the remaining 12 hostages are FREE!" Christian Aid Ministries said in a statement. "All 17 of our loved ones are now safe." A convoy of at least a dozen vehicles, including U.S. Embassy SUVs and Haitian National Police, brought the missionaries to the Port-au-Prince airport late last week from the missionary group's offices in Titanyen, north of the capital. Earlier, people at the Christian Aid Ministries campus could be seen hugging each other and smiling. News of their release spread quickly in and around Berlin, Ohio, where CAM is headquartered. "It's an answer to prayer," said Ruth Miller, who was working at the front desk of the town's Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center. Berlin is in Holmes County, Ohio's Amish heartland, and many Amish and Mennonites volunteer in CAM ministries and donate to it. Wes Kaufman, who attends a church where some CAM leaders also worship, said many congregations had heeded the mission group's recent request to devote three days to fasting and praying over the situation. "It's amazing how God works," Kaufman said as dined with family in nearby Walnut Creek at Der Dutchman, a restaurant featuring traditional Amish and Mennonite fare. In Washington, White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre praised the law enforcement work and Haitian officials who helped get the hostages freed. "We welcomed reports that they are free and getting the care that they need after their ordeal," she said. The missionaries were kidnapped by the 400 Mawozo gang on Oct. 16. There were five children in the group of 16 U.S. citizens and one Canadian, including an 8-month-old. Their Haitian driver also was abducted, according to a local human rights organization. The gang's leader had threatened to kill the hostages unless his demands were met. Authorities have said 400 Mawozo was demanding \$1 million per person, although it wasn't clear if that included the children. It remained unclear whether any ransom was paid or what efforts led to the hostages' freedom.

*Associated Press*

(VATICAN CITY) – Pope Francis is doubling down on efforts to quash the old Latin Mass, forbidding the celebration of some sacraments according to the ancient rite in his latest salvo against traditionalists. The Vatican’s liturgy office issued a document that clarified some questions arising after Francis in July reimposed restrictions on celebrating the old Latin Mass that Pope Benedict XVI had relaxed in 2007. According to ABC News, Francis said then that he was reversing his predecessor because Benedict’s reform had become a source of division in the church and been exploited by Catholics opposed to the Second Vatican Council, the 1960s meetings that modernized the church and its liturgy. The Vatican repeated that rationale on Saturday, saying the clarifications and new restrictions were necessary to preserve the unity of the church and its sacraments. “As pastors we must not lend ourselves to sterile polemics, capable only of creating division, in which the ritual itself is often exploited by ideological viewpoints,” said the prefect of the Vatican’s liturgy office, Archbishop Arthur Roche, in an introductory note to the world’s bishops. Above all, the Holy Father has said that every lay person should be allowed to hear the good news of the Gospel in their native language – and not in a Latin they don’t understand. Francis’ crackdown on the old Mass has outraged his critics, many of whom have gone so far to accuse him of heresy and watering down Catholic doctrine with his focus on the poor and stewardship of creation. Francis says he preaches the Gospel and what Jesus taught, and has defended the restrictions by saying they actually reflect Benedict’s original goal while curbing the way his 2007 concession had been exploited for ideological ends. His July law required individual bishops to approve celebrations of the old Mass, also called the Tridentine Mass, and required newly ordained priests to receive explicit permission to celebrate it from their bishops, in consultation with the Vatican. Saturday’s decree makes clear the Vatican must explicitly authorize new priests to celebrate the rite. In addition, the new document imposes restrictions targeting the sacramental life of the church. It forbids using the ancient ritual for the sacraments of Confirmation and ordaining new priests, and will make it exceedingly difficult for traditionalists to access the sacraments of Baptism, Marriage and Anointing of the Sick according to the old rite.

*ABC News*

(BONNER SPRINGS, KS.) – An escaped camel sent police scrambling in a Kansas City suburb this past weekend. Religion News Service reports the dromedary in question escaped a Nativity scene in Bonner Springs, Kansas. The incident is the latest chapter in the colorful and often chaotic history of camels in the United States. The animal was part of a drive-thru Nativity scene at the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame when its halter broke late Saturday night. Chased soon after on foot, the camel managed to avoid its pursuers. The next day the animal traversed parts of the K-7 Highway, and despite being spotted by many motorists, it again eluded capture. Images and videos of the animal soon went viral. Police officials suggested on Facebook that the situation could “only be described as a scene out of another cop movie.” At one point Bonner Springs Police Department pursued the camel on golf carts after it strayed onto a golf course. The camel visited several neighborhoods before being cornered and lassoed by an animal control officer. Its owner then arrived to take possession of the nomadic creature.

*Religion News Service*

## **Quiz Answers (& addenda)**

Okay ...how'd you do?

1. Gabriel
2. Nazareth
3. Shepherds
4. God with us
5. City of David

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
God bless each of you!

Fr. Jim