

"Beacon of Faith,"
ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Cathedral of the Plains,"
THE BASILICA OF ST. FIDELIS

"Pearl of the Prairie,"
ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Office:		601 10th Street, Victoria, KS 67671 • 785-735-2777 • Fax: 785-735-2779 Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30 — Friday 8:30-12:00		Catholic Faith Education Office: 785-735-9244	
Gift Shop Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:30–noon and 1:00–4:30 Friday: 8:30–noon	Weddings: Couples planning to marry must contact the Parish Office at least 6 months before the wedding date for marriage preparations.	Baptisms: All new parents are asked to complete a Baptismal Preparation class before their child is baptized. For information, please call the Parish Office.		Hospital Visits: To arrange for our pastor to visit someone in the hospital, please call the Parish Office.	
In-Home Mass: Any homebound or hospice family interested in having Mass in their home should contact Bertha Brungardt at the Parish Office.	Holy Communion Brought to Homebound: Holy Communion can be brought to homebound parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is unable to come to a Sunday Mass.		EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: THURSDAYS 10:00 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M. in St. Fidelis Church Chapel behind the main altar		

www.stfidelischurch.com / www.stbonifacevincent.com

December 20, 2015 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses:

St. Fidelis, Victoria

Saturday — 5:00 pm
 Sunday — 10:00 am
 Monday — 7:00 pm
 Tuesday through Friday — 6:45 am

St. Ann, Walker

Saturday — 6:30 pm — November - April
 Sunday — 7:30 am — May - October

St. Boniface, Vincent

Sunday — 8:45 am

Confessions:

at St. Fidelis — Mondays — 7:30 pm
 or by appointment (contact Parish Office)

Tri-Parish Prayer Line

Anyone wishing to request prayers for family or friends may call Helen Windholz (735-2508) or Teresa Shepherd (735-9576) to add their requests to the Prayer Line

Dates To Remember

Dec. 21—Winter begins
Dec. 21-Jan. 1 — School Break
Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Dec. 25 — Christmas Day — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED at noon
Jan. 1 — Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)—New Year's Day — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Jan. 18 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 22 — 44th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade—Day of Prayer for the legal protection of unborn children
Jan. 29 — Kansas Day (155 years)



**Blessed are you among women,
 and blessed is the fruit of your womb.**

(from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-45)



Dear Santa,

Christmas is near so we need to write and tell you how good we have been and what you can bring us for Christmas. This is a busy time for you and your helpers, but we hope you took time to celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, your patron saint.

We have been very good this year. We have tried to obey the commandments, say our prayers, and help others. Although we have been good, we have not been perfect. When we fail, we can return to the good graces of God in the Sacrament of Penance. We are grateful for the gift of this merciful Sacrament.

This year we replaced the front steps of our church, steps worn down by a century of faithful worshipers. Maintaining our church is a tribute to the faith of our ancestors who built this magnificent basilica, and to the generations who have maintained it so well. Our church is a monument to faith and a gift of faith from our ancestors. It is our home where we receive gifts of God's grace.

Speaking of gifts, we had a very long list for you this year, but we have pared it down to the essentials since you have so many to visit and your sleigh is only so big. Our first request is that the peace and joy of this holy season fill the hearts of all of our parishioners. It is so easy to get caught up in the commercial frenzy of this season and miss the essentials. If you are too busy, you can skip all the other gifts, if you will fill our hearts with peace and joy. Of course, we hope that you are not too busy.

To those who have lost a loved one this year, bring the comfort of faith in life eternal. To those burdened with serious illness, bring healing and comfort. For those in difficult circumstances or wounded relationships, bring forgiveness and hope. To those struggling with finances, bring secure employment and a stable income. And remember the special gift of awe and wonder for our children as they celebrate the birth of Our Savior.

Finally, Santa, during this busy season find time for yourself, time to pray and reflect on the meaning of the birth of the Christ Child. It is a misguided kindness to make Christmas for others, yet not experience Christmas in your own heart.

Sincerely,

The Parishioners of St. Fidelis Basilica,
The Cathedral of the Plains

Parish Staff

Pastor:

Fr. John Schmeidler, OFM, Cap.
email: frjohncap@gmail.com

Secretary:

Jan Brungardt
email: fidelis@ruraltel.net

Catholic Faith Education Office:

Shirley Brungardt, Coordinator
email: sfreled@ruraltel.net
Jeanette Brungardt, Youth Minister
email: fidelisyouth@ruraltel.net

Family Life Office:

Bertha Brungardt, Coordinator
email: sffamily@ruraltel.net

Sacristan:

Katie Scheck

Housekeeping:

Darlene Dreiling

Groundskeeper:

Julius Dreiling

Maintenance:

Joe Brungardt

Organists:

Kathy Dreiling-Amrein

Lou Ann Hammersmith

Choir Director:

Kathy Dreiling-Amrein

Technology Coordinator:

Connie Windholz

email: sfttech@ruraltel.net

Council Members

St. Fidelis Pastoral Council

Randy Leiker 259-1392 (Chair)
Andy Kuhn 639-2156 (Vice-Chair, B & G)
LeeAnn Schmidtberger 735-9486 (Sec)
Janea Dinkel 735-9529 (FamLife)
Peggy Fitzpatrick 735-8186 (RelEd)
Daren Lang 735-2855 (Finance)
Doug Kuhn 650-1058
Donna Juenemann 735-9700

St. Fidelis Finance Council

Curtis Sander 735-2559
John R. Braun 735-2622
Harland Rupp 735-2206
Dave Juenemann 656-0647

St. Boniface Pastoral Council

Carol Freitag 735-9282
Randy Huser 735-4836
Mike Eckroat 623-9566

St. Ann Pastoral Council

Helen Windholz 735-2293
Allen Hammerschmidt 735-2447
Jerry Nowak 637-5273

Contributions December 12-13 2015

ST. FIDELIS:

Adult 1965.00 Loose 1191.00
Immaculate Conception 455.00
Retired Religious 296.00

ST. ANN:

Adult 881.00 Loose 148.00
Immaculate Conception 11.00
Retired Religious 49.00

ST. BONIFACE:

Adult 200.00 Loose 151.00
Candles 41.00
Immaculate Conception 20.00
Retired Religious 232.00

Money Counters

Dec. 21 — Dianne Crawford,
Marilyn Braun

Dec. 28 — Jim and JoAnn
Pfanenstiel

With Sympathy

The sympathy of the parishes is extended to the family of **Miriam (Bellendir) Wasinger**, who passed away on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Services were held at the Basilica of St. Fidelis, Victoria, on Saturday, December 12, with burial in St. Fidelis Cemetery, Victoria.

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas holiday on the following days this week:

**Thursday, December 24 @ noon
Friday, December 25**

There will NOT be any Eucharistic Adoration at St. Fidelis or Coffee at the PAC on Thursday, December 24.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas!



Christmas and New Year deadlines

- ◆ Items for the **December 27 bulletin** are due by **noon on Tuesday, December 22.**
- ◆ Items for the **January 3 bulletin** are due by **noon on Tuesday, December 29.**

Thank you for your cooperation!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please remember your ADVENT ANGEL in your prayers throughout the season of Advent.



Advent Reflections

Encyclical of Pope Francis on the Environment

Laudato Si

Sundays of Advent

December 20

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life

Fr. Earl Meyer OFM Cap

ST. FIDELIS THRIFT SHOP is always accepting donations. Thrift Shop hours are Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10-2, Thursday from 10-4, Wednesday from 10-3:30 and 5-8. If these hours do not work for you to drop off your donations, contact Jan at the parish office.



Religious give thanks. "We cannot begin to repay all who contribute," writes a Catholic sister. "So we pray to God, who is never outdone in generosity, to reward you." Heartfelt thanks for your donation to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. May God bless you for your goodness!

*Remember,
Christmas isn't about
how big
the tree is,
or what's
under it.
It's
about who's
around it.*





Christmas Pageant Practice

The annual Christmas Pageant will be held at the 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Fidelis. Practice for the Christmas Pageant will be held as follows at St. Fidelis:

Wednesday, December 23, from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

CATHOLIC FAITH EDUCATION

Sunday, December 20 — 8:00 A.M. CYO ski trip – depart for Colorado

4:00-5:00 P.M. Adult Faith Formation Class offered by Fr. Earl Meyer OFM Cap: Advent Reflections on Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'* at Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life

Wednesday, December 23 — **No Religious Education Classes – Christmas Break**

1:00 – 4:00 P.M. Christmas Pageant Practice at St. Fidelis Church

CYO Ski Trip Returns to Victoria

Thursday, December 24 — 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Mass St. Fidelis — Christmas Pageant

Jubilee Choir performs at 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Mass

Wednesday, December 30 — **No Religious Education Classes**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Needing a Place to Gather? If you are looking for a place to host a reception, baby or bridal shower, family reunion, or a get-together, 1867 Memorial Home in Victoria is available for you to rent. For more information, call Jeff at 785-650-1640.

Thank You!

St. Fidelis Council #1867 wishes to thank everyone who attended and helped out during the Major Membership Degree this Past Sunday in Victoria. A big welcome goes out to the new members who joined the order as well this past Sunday. It is a pleasure to have you all as our new Brother Knights.

Happy Holidays to everyone from your local Knights of Columbus Council.

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

Caroling This Weekend

Due to last Sunday's welcomed moisture (thank you ,God), the Daughters of Isabella Christmas caroling will be this Sunday, December 20. All members are invited to participate in the Christmas caroling for our shut-in members in Victoria and those members who are residents in Via Christi Village and other nursing homes in Hays. Christmas song sheets will be provided. Please meet in the Basilica parking lot at 1:15 p.m. on December 20.



ST. BONIFACE



ST. BONIFACE NATIVITY DISPLAY AND OPEN HOUSE

The "Little Town of Bethlehem" Nativity display at St. Boniface Church will be open for visitors from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on the following days:

Sunday, December 20

Friday—Christmas Day

Saturday and Sunday, December 26-27

Cookies and cider will be served each day.

Anyone wanting to see the nativity at times other than those listed may call Carol at 785-735-9282.

www.StBonifaceVincent.com

Adult Choir

PRACTICE: Tuesday, December 22, at 7:00 p.m.
SING: Midnight Mass, December 24, at 10:00 p.m.

* Sunday Rosary Schedule *

1 st - Christian Mothers	2 nd - Knights of Columbus
3 rd - Daughters of Isabella	4 th - Family Life

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 5:00 pm

<u>Cantor</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Children's Choir	Mark Schroeder Mary Lou Rome	Justin Braun Eric Braun	Norman / Pam Scheck
<u>Lector</u>	Marge Rome	Vance	Louise Robben
Angie Roth	Jan Brungardt Wanda Kuhn	Hockersmith	
<u>Comm.</u>	Debbie		
Danita Schroeder	Geschwentner		

Midnight Mass, Dec. 24, 10:00 pm

<u>Cantor</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Adult Choir	Phyllis Stramel Colleen Kuhn	Hannah Radke Aspen	Ken / Bertha Brungardt
<u>Lector</u>	Tammy Dome	Schoenrock	Sandy Scheck
Amorette Windholz	Bertha A. Brungardt Keith Billinger	Grant Schoenrock	
<u>Comm.</u>	Norma Keenan		
LeeAnn Schmidtberger	Dianne Crawford Mary Brungardt		

Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 10:00 am

<u>Cantor</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Hannah Lang	Melissa Schmidt	Michael	Vitus Lang
Holly Dreiling	Wilma VonLintel	Wohler	Randy / Sherry
<u>Lector</u>	Jane Wagner	Thaddeus	Leiker
Diane Gross	Volunteers	Wohler	
<u>Comm.</u>		Emily	
Shannon Radke		Schippers	

Saturday, December 26, 5:00 pm

<u>Cantor</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
John/Amanda Braun	Amorette Windholz	Audry Staab Morgan Staab	Doug Oberle family
<u>Lector</u>	Det Younger	Madisyn	Arlene
Randy Leiker	Tom Tholen JoAnn Pfanenstiel	Gerhardt	Wittman
<u>Comm.</u>	Yvonne Braun		
Kathy Kuhn	Mark / Danita Schroeder		

Sunday, December 27, 10:00 am

<u>Cantor</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Leroy Schmidtberger	Cora Schulte Ken Brungardt	Wyatt Engel Tyler Engel	Jim / JoAnn Pfanenstiel
Megan Wellbrock	Marge Rome	Lydia Sander	Cora Schulte
<u>Lector</u>	Becky Scheck		
Sandy Scheck	Joan Wellbrock		
<u>Comm.</u>	Bertha R. Brungardt		
Verda	Bob / Phyllis		

Holiday Schedules

Confession Schedule for Advent

Monday Evenings at St. Fidelis
 after 7:00 p.m. Mass (around 7:30 p.m.)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

at St. Fidelis

No Adoration on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24,
 or on New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31
 (Next Adoration scheduled for Thursday, January 7)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

(Christmas is a holy day of obligation)

Thursday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. • St. Fidelis, Victoria (Children's Mass)

8:30 p.m. • St. Ann, Walker

10:00 p.m. • St. Fidelis, Victoria

Choir will begin singing at 9:30 p.m.

Friday, December 25 — Christmas

8:45 a.m. • St. Boniface, Vincent

10:00 a.m. • St. Fidelis, Victoria

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday, December 31 — New Year's Eve

5:00 p.m. • St. Fidelis, Victoria

Friday, January 1 — New Year's Day

10:00 a.m. • St. Fidelis, Victoria

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY	DECEMBER 21
7:00 pm	Henrietta Kuhn
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 22
6:45 am	Pete and Leona Wellbrock
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 23
6:45 am	Carey Schulte
THURSDAY	CHRISTMAS EVE
	DECEMBER 24
5:00 pm	St. Fidelis Francis J. Kuhn
8:30 pm	St. Ann Dolores Froelich
10:00 pm	St. Fidelis Joe, Magdalen, and Bill Roth families living and deceased
FRIDAY	CHRISTMAS
	DECEMBER 25
8:45 am	St. Boniface James Rajewski
10:00 am	St. Fidelis
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 26
5:00 pm	St. Fidelis Bonivent, Margaret, Donnie, Leo, Hubert, David, and Galen Dinkel and Marlene Dinkel
6:30 pm	St. Ann Robert and Lydia Sander family living and deceased
SUNDAY	THE HOLY FAMILY
	DECEMBER 27
8:45 am	St. Boniface For the parishes
10:00 am	St. Fidelis Vernon Berens Douglas Herman



Holy Door at the Basilica of St. Fidelis

The theme for this liturgical year is “Merciful like the Father” as declared by Pope Francis at the Vatican. According to the Diocese of Salina newspaper, *The Register*, holy doors were opened at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina on December 8 and here at the Basilica of St. Fidelis on December 13.

By entering through a holy door, the faithful may receive a plenary indulgence—the release from any temporal punishment due to sin.


Upon entering, the penitent should kneel in front of the Blessed Sacrament and pray one decade of the Rosary for the pope’s intentions; begin with the Our Father, pray 10 Hail Marys and close with the Glory Be. Then exit through the holy door. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation within 20 days (before or after) and complete one of the Spiritual or Corporal Works of Mercy.

Those who are confined to their homes can obtain the indulgence by offering up their sickness and suffering. Those who are imprisoned may receive the indulgence with prayers and the reception of the sacraments in their prison chapel.

COMMUNITY


Single and Beyond


Single and Beyond is an ecumenical Christian social group for divorced, widowed, and single people located in or near Hays. Their mission is to provide friendship, support, and understanding to one another. Contact Nancy at 785-628-3347 or singleandbeyond@gmail.com. Food and Fellowship gathering on **Wednesday, December 30**, at Gutierrez Mexican Restaurant, 1106 E. 27th St., Hays, at 6:00 p.m. All singles welcome; bring a friend.



Prayer Hour for Our Nation

A “Prayer for Our Nation” prayer hour will be held **every third Tuesday** of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Fidelis Church.





THANK YOU!

Thanks and many blessings for all the birthday cards that I received and for everything everybody does for me. God bless all of you.

Doris Westhusin

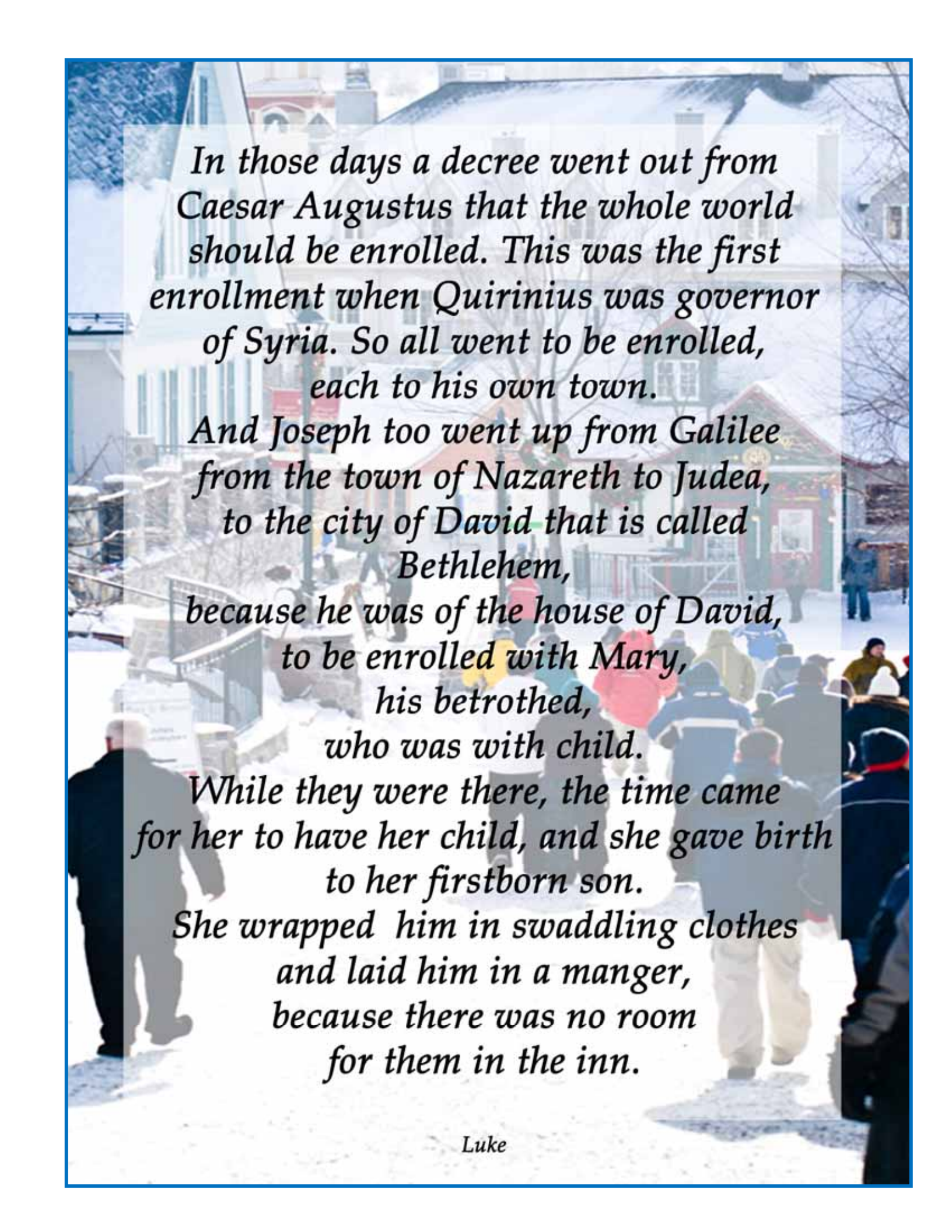
Ellis St. Mary CYO Pan Fried Chicken Dinner Sunday, December 20, 2015

Knights of Columbus Hall, 1013 Washington St, Ellis, KS
10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. or until sold out

Buffet-style dinner includes Pan-fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Dinner Roll, and Dessert

Ages 5-9: \$5.00; Ages 10 & over: \$10.00

Also serving 10-, 16-, and 24-piece buckets of chicken with sides or no sides to go. Call 785-259-3992 to place your order.



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem,

because he was of the house of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son.

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Merry

Christmas

He is born!



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