



Saint Charles
Senior Living Community

Newsletter

* * * * *

A Place To Call Home

January and February 2012

* * * * *

Happy New Year!

The month of January takes its name from the Roman god Janus, the god of gates and doors, endings and beginnings. Because he had two faces, one facing forward and one facing back, he could see both into the past and into the future. His two faces make him an appropriate namesake for the first month of the year, a time of reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the coming year. As we look forward to 2012, we hope for another good and wonderful year.

New Year’s Day is a day full of traditions. We reflect on the past year and resolve to improve things in the New Year—hence New Year’s resolutions. A tradition for some people is to eat pork and sauerkraut for the first meal of the year. The belief is that because a pig roots forward, eating pork to start the new year helps a person move ahead.

It seems, the tradition of eating sauerkraut came from the Pennsylvania Dutch. Cabbage (and thus sauerkraut) is good luck for the new year either because the leaves of cabbage grow up or because they resemble paper currency (depending on which source you choose). Although this superstition may seem rather far-fetched, there may be logic behind the belief.

Cabbage is rich in vitamin C. In the days before refrigeration, food was preserved mostly by salting it. At some point in time, people began to soak cabbage in a salt solution. The result was vitamin-C-Packed cabbage that could be preserved, eaten in the wintertime, and it promoted good health. Thus a tradition evolved of eating sauerkraut on New Year’s Day for good health and good fortune.

* * * * *

January 6 – Epiphany

In Western Christianity January 6th is known as the Epiphany and it celebrates the day when the Magi came to visit the Christ-child. This event was celebrated in many ways such as priests blessing water and children setting out their shoes with food so that the three wise men would leave them gifts. Some even left a box of hay so that the camels and donkeys would have something to eat too.

The epiphany event is rich in many meanings. It tells us that Jesus came for all people. The feast also reminds us that we must journey to find the Lord and the journey is different for every person.

The Magi, these mysterious figures from the East, about who little is known, have long been the subject of stories and legends. In early tradition, the Magi came to be looked upon as “kings”, probably because of Psalm 72 (written for the coronation ceremony of one of David’s successors): “The *kings* of Arabia and Sheba shall bring tribute; all *kings* shall pay him homage.”

No one knows how many Magi there were. The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have given rise to the number commonly used. The Magi have been given various names. Those most commonly used go back to the sixth century: Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar.



Happy Birthday

January

Fr. Gary Scherer 1-3
 Fr. George Albers 1-11
 Fr. Bernard Mullen 1-13

February

Fr. Norb Adelman 2-2
 Br. Greg Frantz 2-3
 Fr. Henry Frantz 2-3
 Fr. Paul Wohlwend 2-5
 Fr. Jim Bender 2-10
 Br. Dan Eisenman 2-16
 Fr. Vincent Hoising 2-28

Sadly missed...

We miss;
 Rita Siefring,
 who died 10-31-11
 Fr. Ernest Ranly
 who died 11-18-11
 Fr. John Spatt
 who died 12-9-11

January 9-14

The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, January 9-14. This week begins with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. Through Baptism, like Jesus, we are called to accept God's love and live out that love every day. This heralds a week dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education. We pray for an increased number of seminarians and candidates for religious life. We also pray for those people who are discerning God's call in their life and for those who are in formation.

January 18 -25 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

This theme for this year's annual week of prayer for Christian Unity is: "We will all be changed by the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (cf. 1Cor 15:51-58). It was decided to focus on a theme that is concerned With the transformative power of faith in Christ, particularly in relation to our praying for the visible unity of the Church, the Body of Christ.

January 16 Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, January 23

The actual Anniversary date of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand is on Jan. 22, 1973. This year the annual Mercer County "Right-to-Life" send-off rally will be held on Sun., Jan. 22, at Mary Help of Christian Church in Ft. Recovery, beginning at 6:00 p.m. At the present time, two buses have been reserved for the trip and are scheduled to leave from our area after the rally. Everyone is welcome to attend the send-off and wish those traveling to Washington D.C. a safe trip.

Thursday, February 2

Groundhog Day is an annual holiday celebrated on Feb. 2nd in both the U.S. and Canada. According to folklore, if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day fails to see its shadow, it will leave the burrow, thus signifying that winter will soon end. If on the other hand, the groundhog sees its shadow, it will supposedly retreat into its burrow and winter will continue for six more weeks.

Friday, February 3

On this day, the feast of St. Blaise, many Catholic people get their throats blessed.

Sunday, February 5

Super Bowl XLVI in [American football](#), will be played on Feb. 5, 2012, in Indianapolis, IN. This will be the first Super Bowl to be played in Indianapolis, and the first time in the history of the game it will be played in consecutive years in a retractable roof stadium.. The day on which the Super Bowl is played is now considered a *de facto* American national holiday, called “Super Bowl Sunday”. It is the second-largest day for U.S. food consumption, after Thanksgiving Day. Also, the Super Bowl has frequently been the most watched American television broadcast of the year. Super Bowl XLV played in 2011 became the most watched American television program in history, drawing an average audience of 111 million viewers. The Vince Lombardi Trophy is awarded to the Super Bowl winner.

We had a party here last year. Let’s have another one!

Sunday, February 12

This is the date of the seventh anniversary of the death of Sr. Dorothy Stang, a Sister Of Notre Dame de Namur (SNDdeN) who for many year worked in Brazil. We remember the goodness of her life.

February 13 – 16

A community retreat will be held at St. Charles Center with the leader being Fr. Ben Berinti, C.PP.S., who is the vice provincial director. We gladly welcome him!

Jigsaw puzzles - enjoy!

Jigsaw puzzles are not only an activity people of all ages can enjoy together or alone, they are also good for your brain. Working on a jigsaw puzzle requires problem solving skills and logical though processes. Jigsaw puzzles benefit manual dexterity by requiring fine motor skills to fit pieces together.

When searching for a specific puzzle piece, you must remember not only the color but also the shape. You must pick the piece up and try to fit it into the puzzle. By repeatedly looking for pieces to fit and trying to remember the shape and color, you reinforce your short term memory. The benefits of puzzles are many, but perhaps most importantly, they are fun and relaxing.

A puzzle is started in the lounge on second floor. Everyone is welcome to enjoy it!

Grateful

We are grateful to all the people who are so good to all of us. Many sent cards or gave gifts of all kinds especially at Christmas time. We say, thank you to our families, friends, community, donors, and benefactors. May God bless each of you in a special way!

God of this New Year, we are walking into mystery. We face the future, not knowing What this year will bring to us; however, we know you walk with us. We praise You!