AT YOUR PARISH

Our Lady of Mercy

member of the diocesan task 36 Armstrong Road. Her talk force on nuclear disarmament, is sponsored by the parish will address the topic of human development comnuclear disarmament at 7 mittee and is open to the p.m., Thursday, Jan. 20, at public.

Sister Christine Wagner, a Our Lady of Mercy Church.

St. Helen

The Men's Club of St. Helen's Church will hold a Past President's Dinner, Wednesday, Jan. 26, at the Party House on Beahan Road. Edwin Nietopski of Cardinal Mooney High School will be the guest speaker. James Black, Gerald Lootens. Kenneth Georger and Richard Kindler will be installed as officers. Program chairman is Fred Brown and reservations for the event are made by calling James O'Neill, ticket chairman, 235-4122; or Brown, 247-7843. before Jan. 23. Tickets are \$9 per person.

St. Stephen

committee of St. Stephen's Church has set a tureen supper for 5:30 p.m., Friday. Jan. 28, in the school hall. Those attending are asked to bring table service and a dish to pass. Soup and beverages will be available.

St. Dominic

Shortsville — "Assignment: Life," the popular pro-life film, will be shown at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 23, at St. Dominic's Church on Route 21. Coffee and discussion will follow at the parish center.

Insights In Liturgy



By Sister Estelle Martin, RSM

Liturgy Of the **Eucharist**

Following the homily and general intercessions which conclude the Liturgy of the Word, the second part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, begins. Preparation of the gifts and altar, the Eucharistic Prayer and the Communion Rite invite the participation of all. Christ's active presence among us in and through his Word prepares and opens our hearts and minds to celebrate this same presence in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Sometimes there is a kernel of the profound even in the frivolous. In the delightful story of "Peter Pan," the fading Tinkerbell is revived when Peter pleads with the audience: "Clap your hands if you believe. Eagerly children have responded and in a magical wonder Tinkerbell has returned to live forever in Never-Never Land.

Eucharist, of course, is not a magic moment when suddenly Christ becomes present in bread and wine like an invader from outer space awaiting the command to descend. At a deeper level, however, there is an integral connection between the actions of the gathered community of believers and the sacramental reality of the eucharistic meal. Together, presider and people mark the rhythm the ebb and flow of text and ritual — that unfolds the mystery of a God dwelling in our midst.

Whenever early Christians gathered they renewed their faith experience of a dying/rising Jesus in the Eucharist. St. Paul writes. "Everytime. then, you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes!" (1 Cor. 11:26)

Reading from scripture.

processions, chants, hymns and common prayers of praise and thanksgiving have gradually shaped the Eucharist into a pattern of worship. Through the centuries the original simplicity of the Lord's supper meal became overpowered by elaborate pomp and ceremony. Today, in our revised liturgy, we capture the importance of that essential core of Christ's act when "he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 'Take this,' he said, 'this is my body.' He likewise took a cup. gave thanks and passed it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them. 'This is my blood . . .' (Mark 14:22-24). These unpretentious human acts of take, bless, break, eat, acquire dimensions that extend beyond the limits of created things and touch the infinite, Eucharist becomes alive in the context of the people celebrating.

The promise of Christ's enduring love is brought to fulfillment in the sharing o this bread and wine, body and blood. The most powerful experience of the sacred is found in the celebration and the persons celebrating ... the living words, the living gestures, the living sacrifice, the living meal." ("Environment and Art in Catholic Worship, No. 291

Today the faithful repeat the same story and the same actions with the same elements of bread and wine in the context of praise and thanksgiving, just as Christ and his apostles did at the Last Supper on the night before Jesus died. The worshiping assembly preserves the continuity of the whole and their faith finds its expression in the actions of the gathered community. Like the disciples of Emmaus, they recognize him in the breaking of the bread and are challenged to become bread, broken for each other — other Christs — reaching out to one another in love and peace.

St. Philip Neri

The Women's Club of St. Philip Neri Church will open its regular meeting with benediction at 7:45 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 25, in the church. An 8 p.m. meeting

will follow with an address on "Personal Home Safety" by Officer David Valle. Hostess for the event is Mrs. Sara

Good Shepherd

A session of "Speaking Out Donahue Style." featuring a discussion of formation of conscience by Father Joseph Jankowiak, will be held 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7, in the chapel of Good Shepherd School, 3264 E. Henrietta Rd.

St. Rita

West Webster - A spaghetti dinner will be served at 4:30. 6 and 7:30 p.m.. Saturday, Jan. 29, at St. Rita's Barn. Tickets at \$4 for adults. \$3.60 for senior citizens, and \$2 for children, are available at the rectory or by contacting Kathy Foster, 671-4347.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Third graders at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School take a group recorder lesson under the tutelage of Mrs. Cole. The session is part of the school's promotion of music appreciation. According to school spokesperson, Emily Ferrari, "We hope to encourage some budding musical talent at our school.'

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