

Sarah Child



All in the Family

It Earned A Spot in Her Memory

The older I get the less I like winter. I tried cross country skiing last Sunday (delighting my children by falling down and not being able to get up) and it was sort of fun. And I can still thrill to the sight of cardinals darting among snowladen pines. And homemade soup, by necessity, requires that you come in from outside on a blustery day to enjoy it to the fullest.

But, on the whole, give me warm weather any day. Not that I always felt this way. Before I was 10, winter was a much-awaited season — though not for my mother.

The clothesline ran across a dirt road from our porch to a shed and operated by a pulley. In winter she would hang out the laundry and 15 minutes later the shirts and nightgowns would be frozen stiff like cardboard ghosts flapping and waving in furious unison.

All too frequently the ice would get so heavy it would break the line and the clothes would fall into the dirt road which, though frozen over, would still require that the whole wash be done over — hand-fed into the wringer washer.

At 7 or 8 years I was aware of that side of winter but it didn't mean much unless the dirt roads to my grandparents' home in Conrad would be piled too high with drifts to negotiate, and we couldn't go for the weekend.

But that was winter's only

deprivation. The first November flakes were enough to produce an ecstasy. A new fur-trimmed parka had the same effect and paradise was Anderson's hill where we belled down on our sleds every afternoon until the dark descended. At 4:30 we went home to eat Mom's still-warm homemade bread slathered with butter (if anybody had heard of calories back then it was a well-kept secret), effectively spoiling our supper.

At bedtime after hot baths we donned flannel jammies and crawled between flannel sheets to sleep snugly for 10 hours or so.

After Grandpa died, Grandma B. moved to the tiny house on the hill just above ours and most weekend nights I spent there with her and Louise, my same-age aunt.

There was a pot-belly cast-iron stove in the living room; behind it a foot or so of space. Taking whatever book I was reading and helping myself to a crisp apple from the fruit cellar, I would creep into this cubby-hole and sit on the warmed linoleum with back to the wall to read in the dim light until my front was too hot and my back too cold, or until Louise yelled that the fudge we'd made was finally hard.

Now all these years later I try to remember why it was that this cramped spot delighted me so much. The warmth, the glow of the cast-iron, the sweetness of the apple, the spell of the printed word — whatever, it remains one of my clearest memories of childhood winters.

Liturgy Office Sets Program for Lectors

The diocesan Liturgy Office will present a second program in the enrichment of lectors Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated at noon, Thursday, Feb. 3, at Blessed Sacrament Church. The afternoon of the devotions include recitation of the rosary at 12:15 p.m., and benediction at 5 p.m., preceding the regular 5:20 p.m. celebration of Mass. According to Wilma Higgs, promoter of the event, the rites will include prayers for perseverance in Lenten penance.

series, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 9, at St. Sakome's Church, 4282 Culver Road.

The programs are designed for lectors who have completed an initial formation program and have been proclaiming the Word regularly in their parishes.

The Feb. 9 session includes the pre-Gospel readings of the Lent-Easter-Pentecost season. Beginning with an overview of the season itself, its purpose and role in the liturgical life of the Church, the workshop will also deal with the background of the readings and give

suggestions for the proclamation of the texts.

Registration and further information are available from the Liturgy Office, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester.

Women's Retreat

Canandaigua — A retreat for women, "The Beatitudes — Challenge and Promise for Today," will be offered at Notre Dame Retreat House, Jan. 28-30. Further information and reservations are obtained by contacting the facility, P.O. Box 342, Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424; (716) 394-5700. Suggested offering is \$45.

N.Y. 14624, (716) 328-3210, before Feb. 3. The registration fee is \$3 per person.

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