



THE CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY OF ST. WILLIAM

Adult and Family Ministry

440 N. Moreland Blvd. Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188

(262) 547-2763 Ext. 213 cbergland@tds.net

December, 2011

Dear Ministers of Praise,

I pray that this Advent finds you watchful and alert for the coming of our Lord because He, indeed, is entering our world at every moment. I pray that you know Him well as our Emmanuel, our God-With-Us. This is a wonderful season for the Church, a time when we are prepared to accept the unexpected gift of God into our world. For what could be more unexpected than our God coming among us as a vulnerable baby, the King of the World, lowborn and in swaddling clothes.

We thank you for your service of prayer during this season. It is a gift to the Church and the world. And like our Lord who appeared little in the eyes of the world, your prayer matters decisively, not only as you pray for the needs of others, but also as you rejoice in the Lord. First and foremost, I ask you to pray in praise of our God who is near to all who call upon him in faith. Indeed, St. Paul instructs us "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near" (Phil 4:4-5).

But there are people who find it difficult to rejoice during this season of hope and promise. There are people who find it difficult to know our Emmanuel because of their hardships. Our economy is still troubled, with many people bravely seeking gainful employment. Please pray for them.

There are people who have lost loved ones during this time of year and so are unable to experience the joy and promise of this season. Please pray for the consolation of those who feel loss, that this holy season may become meaningful to them as they may desire more and more the presence and friendship of God.

There are many who do not have freedom because of habitual sin, addiction, or imprisonment. Please pray for them. Our Lord came into the world to be a light in darkness and to liberate captives. Please pray that all God's people may know the true freedom that is possible because of His love for us.

And even in our needs, we should never forget to pray in thanksgiving for all the goodness that God surrounds us with. I invite you to give thanks for all God's gifts here at St. William. Please pray that we continue to give God glory in our worship, in our witness, and in our works of charity and justice. And I thank you for your great service.

In the joy of our Risen Lord,

Fr. Kevin