

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH EVENTS

*The Y.E.S. group is designed for all middle school students in our parish!*

### Our goals:

- To learn more about our faith and how to follow Christ.
- To have fun and meet new friends.

Events are held each month. These include some service projects, some discussion time and a lot of games, food and fun.

Join us for the next Y.E.S. event:



### **Going Bananas!**

**Friday, April 22**

7 to 9 p.m. in the School Music Room

Bring an ingredient for a giant banana split!



Having fun at the Y.E.S. Ice Skating Party in January.

For information or to RSVP, please contact Rita Zyber at 821-2133 or [rzyber@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:rzyber@stfrancisa2.org)

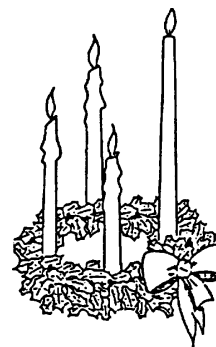


*A New Tradition Begins*

## “Advent by Candlelight”

Advent 2004 brought an evening entitled “Advent by Candlelight” to St. Francis Parish. Close to 100 people gathered in the beautifully decorated Parish Activities Center for lighting of Advent Wreaths, seasonal music, readings, group activities and delicious desserts.

The subdued lighting, tables decorated in Advent purple and pink, the centerpieces of Advent Wreaths and greens provided an elegant setting for parishioners and friends to gather and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Response to the evening was overwhelmingly positive. The hope is to double the attendance in 2005.





Dear St. Francis Church Members,

## Thank You, Thank You!

The following quotes are from some of the “Thank You” notes received for Giving Tree Gifts.

“We would like to extend a big thank you to the generous parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi for their Advent Tree contributions. We received an abundance of needed items from St. Francis for the families who come to us for help. We help between 90 to 120 families per month and your generosity is truly appreciated. When our clients receive used clothes and equipment, they are thankful but when those clothes and equipment are new, they are ecstatic. You have touched many lives by your kind donations. Thanks again from all of the volunteers, moms, dads and babies at **Problem Pregnancy Help.**”

“Thank you all for the beautiful things you have done for us. You are special people in caring for us. Love, Patricia”  
 “I thank you for my Christmas presents. The two sweaters will be put to good use. Tom” “Thanks for the slippers & gloves. Renee” “Thank you for the beautiful sweatshirt and turtleneck! What a beautiful thing you have done. Kim”  
 “Hello, Thank you for the book “Kate Remembered”. The book is very good. Happy New Year. Audrey” **From members of Project Transition**

“Our children sometimes may not even understand where all this attention that makes them happy comes from. However, they know that many friends care for them and this makes a big difference in their life. We all appreciate your kindness.” Fr. Joseph, St. Louis Center

“The residents at Superior Woods HealthCare Center – Nursing Home would like to thank you for the support you gave them during the holidays!” Superior Woods Activity Director.

“All of the individuals who received gifts from St. Francis Church were heartened and happy with the kind support and gifts. Thank you for your generous charity this Christmas season towards the clients of Community Support and Treatment Services.” CSTS Job Coach.

Thank you very much for your thoughtful Christmas presents.

We particularly appreciate that your church includes adults in your gift giving, for they too love being surprised with a present in this season. We thank you and your church for your continuous outreach. So many of our families struggle financially in ways we can hardly conceive of. Your partnership lightens the load and reminds us we are a community. Thank you, Community Action Network, Hikone & Green Baxter Communities.

“I am writing to personally thank you for your gift of Christmas presents. Your partnership keeps high quality early childhood education programs accessible to our community’s most vulnerable families. Through your generosity, we have been able to reach 160 families with early childhood education and family support services this year. Your gift comes at an especially critical time as state and federal funding for such programming has been severely reduced. We value your confidence in our mission and strive to maximize every dollar entrusted to our stewardship.” Sandra Hilton, Executive Director, Perry Nursery School

“On behalf of the entire CSS staff and Board of Director, and especially the thousands of children, adults and families we serve, we are grateful for your belief in our efforts. You gave 180 gifts which we valued at \$2000.00. Your generosity enabled our clients to have a much brighter holiday season this past year. Thank You” from Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County (CSS).

Because of your compassion and generous spirit of giving the families that were adopted by your giving tree were able to experience the real meaning of love at Christmas time. Hope Clinic