THURSDAY EVENING, 6:45 P.M., in Sacred Heart Church, prayers will be offered for everyone’s safe journey home. There will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Christmas carols. CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD UNTIL ALL HAVE BEEN HEARD.

After Benediction Thursday evening, stop at the Grotto and say a prayer at the crib erected there.

The Bishop of Fort Wayne has given permission for evening Mass on Sunday, January 4, the day many of you will be returning from Christmas vacation. If you are traveling from the West and do not get to Chicago until Sunday afternoon, be sure you get to South Bend in time for the evening Mass in Sacred Heart Church at 7:00 P.M.

On Friday, December 26, the universal Church will be dispensed from Friday abstinence. Mindful that in many parts of the world the day after Christmas is a holy day of obligation, it might be fitting to make a special effort to get to Mass that day, in view of the dispensation.

Christmas cards are still available in the office of the Prefect of Religion in Dillon Hall. Help the missions.

Those who may be passing through Chicago on the way back to South Bend in January should note that Masses at St. Peter’s Church in downtown Chicago (110 W. Madison) begin on the hour, from 5 A.M. until 12 Noon. There is no Mass there after 12 Noon. So, again, if you arrive in the afternoon be sure you get to South Bend before 7:00 P.M., at which time there will be a Mass in Sacred Heart Church.

Blessing of a Crib

V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray:

Bless, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, this crib which we have prepared in honor of the new birth in the flesh of Thine only begotten Son, that all who devoutly contemplate in this image the mystery of His Incarnation may be filled with the light of His Glory, Who with Thee livest and reignest in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

Christmas Prayer of 1958

May the peace of Himself enrapture
The strays from the pristine rib
May the glow of the maiden capture
Sheep for the Shepherd’s crib.

May men who for truth are burning
Yet call the Master a sham
Receive His Grace in learning:
"Before Abraham was, I am."

May all fledglings, neon shattered,
Engrossed in worldly cross,
By the Triune Wings be gathered
To the tree of the Cross.

May lechers who are pining
In dull debauchery jaded,
Find surfeit in the shining
Hem of the cloak evaded.

May our brothers racked in silence
‘Neath the blood moon of the East
Dull the claws of violence
In praying for the least.

May our beads, with the Hsp of Mary,
Bring presents, singly priced . . .
The hammer back to Joseph—
The sickle for the Christ.

—THOMAS P. ESMONDE.
Christmas Greetings
To Pope John XXIII, now gloriously reigning,
With good wishes for long years of service and thanks for dispensing us from Friday abstinence on December 26.
And Christmas Greetings to Cardinal O'Hara because his elevation gives all the family of Holy Cross cause for rejoicing.
And Christmas Greetings to Bishop Pursley of Fort Wayne for so many kindnesses—the latest being permission for an evening Mass on campus on January 1.
Christmas Greetings to all Holy Cross priests and brothers across the world.
Christmas Greetings to Notre Dame alumni everywhere.
Christmas Greetings to faculty members and their families.
Christmas Greetings to students from one end of the campus to the other—from Alumni to Lyone and from Pangborn to Farley.
Christmas greetings to bus-drivers.
Christmas greetings to cabbies.
Christmas Greetings to the new Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Kings, and Sheep in the manger scene at the Grotto. They seem almost alive.
Christmas Greetings to Brother Boniface and his assistants who made the crib.
Christmas Greetings to Fathers Barry, Lochner, and O'Neil who have spent so many hours in confessional administering the Sacrament of Penance.
Christmas Greetings to Fr. McAuliffe and the Moreau and Student choirs.
Christmas Greetings and a good night's sleep for rectors and prefects.
Christmas Greetings to the Brothers in the Post Office, and Pat Gelson.
Christmas Greetings to Jean in the Caf, and Jimmy who seems always to smile.
Christmas Greetings to Father John O'Brien:
To Father Callan, S.J.

Christmas Greetings to the Brothers at the Ave, and Del:
To Mrs. Gerwisch and Mr. Schrantz;
And to the parents of the children who died in the Chicago School Fire;
And to those here who sent them prayers and money.
Christmas Greetings to Carl Babinski in his tailor shop:
To Jack McAllister in his equipment room.
Christmas Greetings to all coaches—everywhere.
Christmas Greetings to John Hayward, Ed Butler, and John Keegan:
To Don Gillies with his foot in the trap.
Christmas Greetings to Warren Albright and all at WSND:
To Buck O'Connor:
To the O'Sullivans all. And all the McGlynn.
Christmas Greetings to Joe Boland and Paul Fenlon, pillars of Dillon chapel.
Christmas greetings to the Boston Red Sox and their new shortstop:
And to the Detroit Lions and their new fullback.
Christmas Greetings to my students in the Junior seminar:
To Detroiters and Milwaukeeans because they have new shepherds for Christmas.
Christmas greetings to the Sisters at the infirmary:
And to all the sisters here.
To all the maids who will be cleaning rooms carefully the whole year through:
And to Walt Jaworski, and the ladies in white—in the halls and Huddle.
To all men of good will, we say

May the Peace of Christ,
Which Surpasses All Understanding,
Be in Your Minds and Hearts.

Jean Boarman, C.C.
Prefect of Religion