



# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2025

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## BEYOND THE TWINKLE

We have arrived at this holy season by the influence of many factors-both internal and external. The seasonal change of fall to winter is beautiful in its unfolding. The changing colors, the shortening of days, as well as preparing the yard and home for the upcoming snow and colder temperatures.

While we focus on these events, the culture already begins displaying Christmas decorations, gifts, flashing lights, and the tincture of Christmas music. The pace is fast and fills our available time without trying.

We pause and wonder what this time is all about. Our inner voice cries out with "STOP!". In the fervent rush our hearts starve for the solemn beauty and the true meaning of Christmas. We pause and make a course correction to enjoy the inner peace, shared love, and tranquility our souls long for. That is Our Lord calling us to the loving embrace of the Heavenly Father as we acknowledge the birth of His Son. It begins to come together. We deliberately carve out time so the moment does not pass us by.

At the place 2B we honor this precious gift of the newborn Christ above all things. Through our personal faith lives our community offering the Holy Mass, retreats, meetings and serving those in need. It can be a difficult balance at times but the dedication of SO MANY dedicated volunteers shine brightly and brings the warm presence and love of Christ into all our festivities. We are not perfect, but the love of God for all of us renews our hearts and minds with the true message of the season.

**Join us. Volunteer or just participate in the love of God being richly poured out.** It is a gift of God's grace that does not disappoint. To give is to receive.

This is beyond the obvious, this is God beyond the twinkle.

***May you enjoy the warm presence of His love and become His Light to others.  
Merry Christmas!***

***Father Dave***

## ETERNAL JOY

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Her last question was, "How was the atmosphere there today?" FOX11 WLUK was just wrapping up their on-air interview with me. They were on Father Carr's campus for their annual Food Pledge Drive. The day was incredible and the generosity overwhelming. The question seemed obvious, but I was glad she asked it. The answer was abundant joy. I don't believe that was my immediate response, but that certainly is my final take. Donations came in by the carload, and the smiles of those giving were heartwarming and aplenty. Yes, abundant joy would have been the proper answer.

I hope the joy of giving did not dissipate from these givers as they departed our parking lot. The joy these gifts will bring will be long-lasting, maybe even for a lifetime. Those that receive the food will share in that joy and they will remember how some stranger's generosity made a difference in their life. Joy is meant to be shared, to be given away.

I am very blessed to be the Director of the Place 2B. I witness the fruit of joy the Holy Spirit provides every day. It motivates us, shields us and offers a dimension of life some here have not felt in a long time. It certainly is a key component of the healing we all sometimes need. The joy our Lord provides is powerful enough to get us through the temporary setbacks and even the tragedies we experience in our life. His joy comes to us when we completely surrender and trust Him. His joy is eternal.

The holiday season will eventually end, but the season of joy should be everlasting. Don't let the feeling of joy ever end in your life. Surround yourself with our Lord and trust in His ways. Let the season of joy be eternal in you.

On behalf of Father Carr's Board of Directors and myself, a blessed and Merry Christmas to you and yours. Joy to the world, now and forever.

Pax Christi,  
**Jim**



**EVERY WEDNESDAY 5:30AM**  
**FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B**

## BE PRESENT

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One of my daily challenges is this: **staying present**. I constantly find myself getting ready for the next task, thinking of what needs to be done; stressing about the future. Especially during the holiday season: Trying to perfect holiday plans to make sure we see all our family and friends, making Christmas lists, buying gifts for others, etc. But, thanks to God, I was gifted my incredible daughter, and she forces me to slow down. To focus on what truly matters.

She has been the greatest blessing, not just because I love being her mom, but because I can't help but savor every moment with her, and be present in the moment. She is growing up so quickly, and I need to remember all these little details before they fade away. The silly way she says, "me?!" when handing you something, instead of "for you". The way she says "hewwo" instead of "hello". Her obsession with her dogs- waving to them, and trying to have conversations with them constantly.

When my attention starts waning, and my mind starts drifting, I usually go to grab my phone to scroll through emails or on social media, and she always notices. Even when my eyes are closed for a moment- while I'm trying to nap for 5 minutes while she plays, or I am saying a quick prayer before I eat. She loudly says, "Hi?!". It makes me giggle, because she can't have a moment without my attention. But- I wouldn't change it for the world. She keeps me sane, keeps my priorities straight.

This holiday season, I challenge you to slow down. To choose happiness, and to see the joyful little moments that surround us every day. To celebrate all the small wins, and to stay present in this life. We are not promised tomorrow, so we should live our lives to the fullest, and treat each moment like it could be our last.

Have a very Merry Christmas, and a joyful New Year!

**Emily Htwe, RN, BSN**  
**Clinic Director**  
**St. Francis Free Clinic**

## HELP US HELP OTHERS

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Father Carr's Place 2B operates entirely on donations from foundations, individuals, churches, businesses and other organizations. We are not subsidized with any government funding. We operate our facilities, including our clinic and food pantry, primarily with volunteer labor.

Please support Father Carr's Place 2B and the community services we provide by scanning the QR code to the right or giving online at [fathercarrs.org/donate](http://fathercarrs.org/donate).



## THE INFANT JESUS

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Christmas is the most celebrated holiday in the world, bringing together billions of people celebrating with different family and cultural traditions. If we think about it, it's pretty incredible to have a day that is so unitive. And behind all of the presents, feasts, and heartfelt commercials, we seek to return to the core of our celebration – God becoming man.

Countless times in scripture Jesus is asked something along the lines of "If you are God why don't you do something about it; perform a miracle, end evil, save yourself, etc.?" It's a fair question, because we as believers know that He could. So why doesn't He? What we need to recognize is that the Father sending His Son and Jesus taking on human flesh was not something that was necessary for Him, it was necessary for us. It was a profound act of mercy that God Himself took our form so that He may reveal the fullness of the human experience to our broken and limited hearts.

Our first knowledge of the Savior is the Annunciation. The Jewish people had awaited a Savior for thousands of years all having theories of what His coming would be like. No one guessed that it would happen by a woman finding out she was pregnant. Following this we read about the courageous commitment and protection of St. Joseph, and shortly after the couple journeyed to Bethlehem where they delivered their sweet baby boy. While this looks a variety of ways, by our conception we are given to a mother and father, our lives are willed for the family unit, which is the lifeblood of our society. There are infinite ways that God could have revealed Himself as Savior, but He chose the most human experience He could have and entered the world in the same way that you did.

Throughout His life we learn what it means to be human as we hear stories of his relationships with his family and friends. He shows us how to love on a simple human level; we see him laugh and weep and experience the emotions gifted to us each day. We see Him suffer the most brutal torture and then it His profound humility, when He had every power to save himself – he dies. He leaves the world the way that every single one of us will because He desires so deeply to unite himself to us, to help us know that he is with us and that he experiences everything that we do.

But before any of this happened, He was simply born, to a mom and dad in a humble stable. In a few weeks billions of people are going to come together with loved ones and celebrate in their own meaningful way – not the conquering of an empire, or a great historic battle, but a birthday – the day a little baby came into the world to his mom and dad and gave the world hope for salvation.

Happy birthday, Jesus!

***Sami Boehm***  
**Contributing Writer**

# Living the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25 vs. 31-40

- ***“for I was hungry and you gave me food...”***
  - **In 2025, our food pantry has provided groceries to over 20,000 souls and we have served thousands of meals.**
- ***“a stranger and you welcomed me...”***
  - **Over 150 men, women and children were welcomed into our Life Enrichment Program this year and became our guests.**
- ***“I was sick and you cared for me.”***
  - **This year, the Saint Francis Free Clinic will surpass 2000 patient visits for the first time.**



## IRA / QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS (QCD) GIVING OPTION

As we journey towards the end of 2025, we would like to remind those of you who are 70.5 years or older, gifts up to \$100,000 from your IRA may be directly transferred from an IRA to a qualified charity such as Father Carr's Place 2B Life Enrichment Center, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Even though the SECURE Act raised the required minimum distribution (RMD) age to 73, the QCD age remains at 70.5, so QCDs can be used for charitable giving even before RMDs begin.

***Check first with your IRA administrator or tax advisor for more detailed information about Qualified Charitable Distributions' processes and timeline.***

**For more information** on the IRA/QCD option and other additional ways to donate to Father Carr's, please contact either **Jim Boehm, Father Carr's Executive Director at (920) 231-2378** or at [jimboehm@fathercarrs.org](mailto:jimboehm@fathercarrs.org) or **Deacon John Ingala (Father Carr's Board of Directors' Development Committee Chair) at (920) 203-9272** or [deaconji@gmail.com](mailto:deaconji@gmail.com).

## THE CANDLE IN THE WINDOW

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In a remote countryside, the Johnson family prepared for Christmas without their eldest son, William, who was serving overseas in the military. Each night, Mrs. Johnson lit a candle in the window, a tradition symbolizing hope for his safe return.

A severe snowstorm hit on Christmas Eve, causing power outages across the region. The family gathered around the fireplace, sharing memories of William.

Meanwhile, a weary traveler named Jacob struggled through the blizzard after his car broke down. Freezing and lost, he spotted a faint light flickering in the distance—the candle in the Johnsons' window. Guided by the light, Jacob reached the house and knocked on the door. The family welcomed him warmly, offering food and shelter.

As they talked, Jacob revealed that he had served alongside William and had been on his way to deliver a message. "Your son saved my life," Jacob said solemnly. "He wanted you to know he's safe and coming home soon."

Overjoyed, the family realized their act of keeping the candle lit not only guided Jacob to safety but also brought news of their beloved son.

Let us remember and pray for those serving our country that can't be home for Christmas. God Bless America!

## 2025 ANNUAL APPEAL RECAP

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Father Carr's Annual Appeal focus is to upgrade our infrastructure and facilities.

**Our 2025 Annual Appeal generated**

**\$75,000**

**Facility projects in the works...**

- **New roof on garages - \$13,000**
- **Replace (2) 200 gallon water heaters - \$27,000**
- **Polyurea coating on Pantry floor - \$25,000**
- **Replace fire alarm system in Bethlehem Inn - \$10,000**

**Thank you to all who contributed.**

# CARRnival for KIDS 2026

## SATURDAY MAY 30th

Ask how you can support this great community event.

Contact Jim Boehm (920) 231-2378

[jimboehm@fathercarrs.org](mailto:jimboehm@fathercarrs.org)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



VOLUNTEER AT OUR NEW DENTAL CLINIC & MAKE A DIFFERENCE LOCALLY!  
HERE IS WHAT WE NEED:

-  Dentists
-  Dental Hygienists
-  Dental Assistants
-  Dental Clinic Manager



*EVEN JUST ONCE A MONTH IS HELPFUL!*



[APPLY NOW](#)



920-231-2378 (Mother Teresa Center)  
920-230-2273 (Clinic)  
[emilyhill@fathercarrs.org](mailto:emilyhill@fathercarrs.org) (Clinic Director)

## ESTO VIR OSHKOSH

### EVO Men's Spirituality Morning

- 7:00 am - Arrival / Welcome
- 7:05 to 7:40 - Confessions
- 7:20 am - Holy Rosary
- 7:45 am - Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- 8:15 am - Breakfast / Fellowship
- 8:45 am - Presentation
- 9:30 am - Wrap Up
- 9:45 am - Departure



**BECOME THE  
COURAGEOUS MAN**

**GOD IS  
CALLING YOU  
TO BE.**

## BE A MAN!

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday September - May  
Mass - Rosary - Reconciliation  
Breakfast - Speaker - Fellowship



FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B  
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[www.fathercarrs.org](http://www.fathercarrs.org)

## CURRENT LIST OF NEEDS FOR FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B

### Food Pantry Staples

Fresh or Frozen Meat (we accept venison)

Coffee  
Cumin  
Onion Powder  
Garlic Powder  
Cinnamon  
Chili Powder  
Breakfast Cereal

Pancake Syrup  
Peanut Butter  
Canned Fruit  
Canned Chili  
Jam/jelly  
Chef Boyardee  
Canned Meat  
Canned Fish

Flavored Oatmeal  
Black Pepper  
Granola/Snack Bars  
Spaghetti/Spaghetti sauce  
Chunky/Progresso soups  
Applesauce  
Hamburger/Tuna Helper

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### Shelter Needs

Cleaning Supplies  
Bath Towels

Bathroom cleaner  
Men's deodorant

Men's body wash  
Men's shampoo

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### Ministry Needs

City Daily Bus Passes

Vacuum Cleaners

Microwave