Dear Parishioners, Friends, and Visitors to the Cathedral,

Flip on the radio as we get closer to Dec. 25th and you're bound to hear the “sounds of the season” – Christmas music streaming non-stop throughout the whole month of December. Certainly everyone has their favorites, but I have always been partial to those Christmas carols that speak directly to the heart of what it is that we are celebrating at Christmas time; namely, the birth of the one who will save us from our sins. Among the panoply of Christmas hymns is one that doesn’t actually mention the birth of Jesus, but is none-the-less thoroughly Christian, and celebrates a man whose feast day we celebrate on September 28th – Saint Wenceslaus.

The song celebrates a man who was born around AD 905. He was the son of the Christian Duke of Bohemia and a pagan princess. In addition to the good example of this father, Wenceslaus was instructed in the Catholic faith by his grandmother, Saint Ludmilla. Despite the fact that his well-to-do heritage could have afforded him an effortless life of leisure, Saint Wenceslaus, not only excelled in his academic pursuits, but he also managed to advance significantly in the spiritual life. In fact, most people thought he would have been much happier as a monk, rather than a duke.

Upon the death of his father, Duke Wratislaw, his mother, Princess Dragomir rose to power, and because she practiced the native pagan religion, she seized the opportunity to get rid of the Catholic faith. Immediately she purged Catholics from government offices, closed churches, and forbade the teaching of the Catholicism. Wenceslaus’ grandmother urged him to seize power from his mother, and with the help of Christian forces, he was able to secure a large portion of the country under his governance. As a ruler, he was a fair and just king, always seeking to provide for his people. He was a pious and prayerful man, attending Mass every day, and living an ascetic and penitent life. Additionally, Wenceslaus was not only a model of Christian charity, but also actively supported the spread of the Christian faith throughout his realm. When his country was threatened with invasion, rather than risk the lives of his men, he resolved the dispute through single combat.

His mother, however, was thoroughly opposed to Wenceslaus’ rule and so, began to plot his demise. First, she resorted to having Ludmilla killed, and then stirred up the anti-Christians forces against Wenceslaus. When Wenceslaus married and had a son, his younger brother, Boleslaus, aware that he was no longer the successor to the throne, joined his mother and the opposition forces. They deceptively invited Saint Wenceslaus to the Feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian, and there, on the steps of the church, assassinated him, by running him through with a sword. After his death, the Holy Roman Emperor Otto I, who had conferred upon Wenceslaus the title ‘king’, invaded Bohemia and forced Boleslaus to reverse the anti-Catholic measures that he Dragomir had put in place.

Despite the many praiseworthy accomplishments of his reign, what is he most remembered for (if the song is any indication), is his charity toward the poor. Take a closer look at the lyrics of the carol this week, and then ask yourself – how would you want to Church to remember you 1000 years from now?

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Nautica Queen
Oct. 1 - 5:00 pm
The Cathedral will hold its annual Nautica Queen dinner cruise next Sunday, October 1st. This event will include a lovely fall evening out on Lake Erie with food, games, camaraderie, and certainly lots of fun. Bring the family, bring a friend, bring a date, or come on your own. Tickets are on sale after Sunday Mass, at the Cathedral office, or on the Cathedral website! We need donations of tickets for those who may not be able to afford to attend.

Cruise includes:
- All-you-can-eat dinner buffet
- DJ & Dancing
- 50/50 Raffle
- Trivia Games and more!

Ticket donation:
$35 Adults; $25 Children (11 & under).

Hurricane Relief Collection - In the second major storm of the season, Hurricane Irma has added to the damages and expenses caused by Hurricane Harvey. Dioceses across the country have been asked by the leadership of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to have an emergency collection to assist victims. This emergency collection will be held next weekend, Sept. 30/Oct. 1, and will be used both to support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to impacted dioceses through the USCCB. Please be generous.

Diocesan Mass for Our Lady of Fatima - The Diocesan Fatima 100th anniversary Mass with Bishop Nelson Perez will be held at the Cathedral on Saturday, October 7th, at 10:00 am.

Movie Night: The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima - The Cathedral will host a Catholic Movie Night on Sunday, October 8th, following the 5:30 pm Mass. to view the 1952 classic film The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima. Bring your family! Bring a friend!