



Where is the Christmas Place?

Where is the Christmas place for you? If you were designing a Christmas card with your favorite Christmas scene on the front page, what would that scene be like? Is it the place of your childhood, with wonderful memories of family and friends gathered around the Christmas meal? Would it be getting ready to go to midnight Mass, or to a Christmas morning worship service? Or might it be the feeling of great anticipation, especially with the kids, as your family gets ready to open Christmas gifts around the tree? Almost every family can recall joyful times during Christmas season, even in the poorest of circumstances.

I can recall having Christmas Eve dinner with Mom and Dad and my two brothers and grandma Clara and Grandpa Clarence, but never knowing whom grandpa might bring with him, since he had many friends. After the meal we kids would sit on pins and needles until after the Lawrence Welk Christmas Show had ended. Then, at last, we could begin the process of carefully selecting and deciding who would go first as we opened presents one at a time. After opening all the presents we would play with them until 11 pm, when it was time to get ready for Christmas Midnight Mass. Of course we were so sleepy by the end of Mass that Mom or Dad would have to carry us to bed. What a way to top off the most exciting of days but by attending church and being reminded of the real reason for this special season! I found the following poem, which tells the story of one person's desire to make sense of the birth of Jesus in his heart.

*Here, in Your presence, Lord,
I find, in You, my all in all, yet, today.
No longer the wee Child of the manger,
But always in my heart to stay.*

*Let Christmas be in my heart forever
'Til, in heaven, I see Your wondrous face.
Then, it will forever be Christmas. For heaven is,
To my mind, the real Christmas place.
Amen*



On behalf of the Alexian Brothers in St. Louis we wish you and your loved ones the holiest of Christmas seasons! Brother Richard Lowe, CFA



Residents Roost – Martha’s Musings

The Orange Scarf

One day as Advent neared Ms. Finch (of 84 who lived in the Laurence Justinlan Center for the retired) thought of her orange scarf. This was a Christmas Gift to her a few years ago from her friend and art buddy, Zeke. The label sewed on it – she must read the label again! Yes! There were those special words, “Made in Lima.”

Her excitement was her first realization of a link. This link was based on two of her good friends. One was her husband who she’d married on the Feast of St. Rose of Lima. The other was Zeke who had given her the orange scarf. Pierre, her husband, went to his eternal reward 40 years ago. Now times are spent pleasantly with Zeke when he visits. These times might be at a nearby Starbucks doing art and reading. Zeke is always the reader. Add vibrant conversations, while sipping coffee, of course.

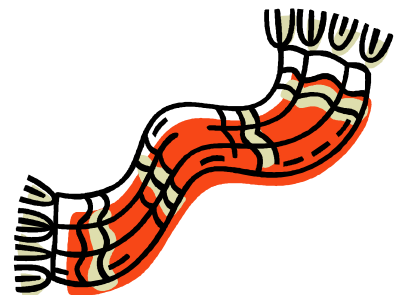
Ms. Finch recalls with a chuckle her telling others, “I was a child 21 years; married 21 years; and a widow 21 years. To that add 21 years which brings us to the present! With this she added the fact that in 11 years she would be 95 (Zeke would be 80) and another 21 year continuum occurs! In the meantime one of her hobbies is to dress as fashionably daily as she can (as her dimming eyes allows.)

Her efforts were crowned recently in the dining room at lunch. Having eaten at her favorite table by the piano she stood to leave. At that moment, a newcomer, attractive Bill, arrived with his relative to sit there, “Ah,” he said to her, “Dressed for a hot date, I see.” His words surprised Ms. Finch so much that she said, “Play the piano for me!” (Her Pierre had been a pianist.) Everyone smiled – she would like to have known him better. Too late – she was leaving, they were arriving.

That evening in her room Ms. Finch reviewed the day. The song from a Broadway Musical came to mind, and her heart took wing with a zing as she thought of Zeke and Bill. Those first words of the song are: “You make me feel so young – you make me feel like spring has sprung – but more to the point is this poem:

The English writer and poet Hilaire Belloc once wrote,

From quiet hours and first beginning,
Out to the undiscovered ends,
There’s nothing worth the wear of winning,
But laughter and the love of friends.





Every month our newsletter and calendar is online

We appreciate your interest in the newsletters and hope that you continue to enjoy them on a monthly basis. We always like to hear your comments and suggestions and try to fulfill as many of those as we can. Some of our recent additions have come as a result of your suggestions so please keep them coming.

We are online at alexianbrothers.net

Beginning in January 2012 we will have a new look and a new format!

Resident and Employee Birthdays



Employees

Patricia Finch – December 6th
Ioana Rohland – December 8th
Patricia Hughes – December 12th
Virginia McGhaw – December 14th
Melanie Strawder – December 14th
Tykita Jones – December 15th
Naeelah Johnson – December 15th
Grace Ikpeama – December 16th
Connie Jones – December 18th
Aletha Armstrong – December 19th
Crystal Hall – December 19th
Amelia Phillips – December 21st
Amanda Green – December 21st
Lee Hines – December 24th
Michelle Buckingham – December 24th
Agnes Kinane – December 28th
Kim Bolton – December 28th
Crystal Meade – December 29th
Rita Powell – December 31st
Tim Borghesi – December 31st
Judith Little – December 31st

Residents

Irene W. Weisenhorn – December 3rd
Mary A Gaona – December 4th
Anna I Bushek – December 4th
Barbara A. Helfrich – December 4th
Joseph Skabla – December 8th
Robert Johnson – December 13th
James Loewe Sr. – December 14th
Emmer Freeman – December 15th
Odell Clark – December 20th
Joan Hollingsworth – December 23rd
John N. Romer – December 23rd
Anne Kwiatkowski – December 23rd
Helen S. Kiepeszczuk – December 28th
Zelma J. Quinn – December 28th
May D. Thompson – December 29th
Mary L. Mullen – December 30th
Wilma Brown – December 31st



Harvest Hall Highlights

Harvest Hall December Highlights

- 12/2 Farewell to Linda/Wishing Her Well
- 12/3 Art Time
- 12/4 Movie "To Grandmother's House"
- 12/6 Decorating the Resident Christmas Tree
- 12/13 Curt Kneisel Christmas Program
- 12/16 Holiday Crafts
- 12/17 Resident Christmas Store
- 12/18 Harvest Hall Afternoon Christmas Social
- 12/20, 12/27 Cooking
- 12/22 Joyful Noise Choir
- 12/22 Cocoa & Caroling
- 12/23 Resident Christmas Party
- 12/30 Resident Birthday Party
- 12/31 New Year's Eve Party



It's December—a most wonderful time of the year! We hope that everyone will be a part of our activity programs. We will be having Art Time and we will be coloring some Christmas pictures. There will be a new Christmas movie, called "To Grandmother's House". There will be the decorating of the resident Christmas tree. We welcome Curt Kneisel back again with his great Christmas Program. There will be the Resident Christmas Store where everyone can join in the fun of finding something they would like. We will have two opportunities to do some cooking and enjoy some tasty treats. We will also have a Cocoa & Caroling program which sounds like a cozy time. We will have 10:00 o'clock Mass on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus who is the real Reason for the Season. There will three parties to round out the month/year. First will be the Resident Christmas Party, then The Resident Birthday Party, and finally the New Year's Eve Party.

We do have one sad note: We regret to announce that a member of our Activity Department—Linda Tomlin—will be leaving ABLV and Activities. We are very sorry to see her go as she has been a good and caring friend to one and all, residents, family, and staff. Her last day here will be Friday December 2nd, and we will have an opportunity to wish her the best in the Main Dining Room that afternoon @ 2:30 p.m.

On behalf of our Activity Department we wish one and all a very blessed Christmas Season and a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

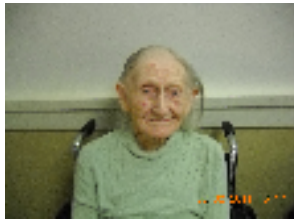
Eternal Life – Let Us Remember Those Who Have Gone Before US



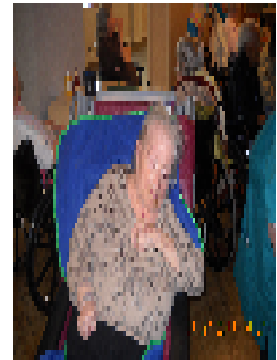
PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will
fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they
comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for
ever.



Anna Wiehe



Angeline Stender



John S. Beedle

No photos available

James DeClue

Helen Doubis

Our prayers are with their families

December Recipes

It's finally here! The wonderful, blessed time of Christmas. As we celebrate the most special of all birthdays we also join friends and families in fun and good will. As you share your holidays here are a few recipes tried and true and few new ones too. Happy Holidays to Everyone!

Peanut Butter Fudge - Submitted by Anita Crocker

Ingredients:

1 stick butter
1 cup peanut butter
Extra peanuts as desired
4 cups of sugar
½ cup of milk
1 cup chocolate chips

Directions:

Soften the peanut butter and the butter. Rub about 2 tablespoons of the butter over the sides of the pan, a 9 inch pan and set aside.

Place the rest of the butter in a large bowl that is microwave safe. Add the peanut butter and place in microwave for two minutes on high.

Crush the extra peanuts into small pieces utilizing a bowling pin or food processor. Place the crushed peanuts into the bowl with the peanut butter mixture. Add sugar and milk while stirring and then add the chocolate chips till everything is blended. Place the bowl back into the microwave for another minute.

Remove and stir well. Pour mixture into the 9 inch pan and let set for one hour. Cut the fudge into pieces and enjoy.



Christmas Cake that is Truly A Gift!

Think Christmas is all about cookies? Well this Gingerbread Cake will change your mind. It has the delicious taste that will remind you of Grandma's kitchen and the ease of cooking that will please today's cooks. The aroma will fill your home with the smell of Christmas.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter flavored shortening (can use butter or margarine too)
- 1/3 cup sugar (Splenda for Diabetics)
- 1 cup molasses
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 egg
- 2 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon salt (if desired)
-
- **ORANGE SAUCE:**
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1/2 teaspoon grated orange peel

Directions:

In a large mixing bowl, cream shortening and sugar.

Add the molasses, water and egg.

Combine the flour, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon and salt; add to creamed mixture and beat until combined.

Pour into a greased 15-in. x 10-in. x 1-in. baking pan.

Bake at 350 degrees F for 18-22 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. In a bowl, combine the sauce ingredients. Serve with cake.



Simple, Beautiful Centerpiece For Your Christmas Table

Not sure what to do to have flowers and a candle on the table. Want to have both but don't have a large table?
Hate centerpieces that don't allow you to see guest?

Well this centerpiece will take care of all of that. It's simple, beautiful fresh flowers or silk if you prefer and a single dripless taper candle.

Materials Needed:

Dripless taper candle, as many as you need for your table. One candle for each place.

Fresh flowers, any type or silk flowers if you prefer.

A shallow candle holder or one that is a dish with a candle holder in the center.

Hot glue

Directions:

Take the shallow dish and if it does not have the candle holder already in it use hot glue to attach the taper to the dish. Be sure to secure the taper candle with the glue on the bottom of the taper and then all around the taper. If your dish has the candle holder spot then simply take a small drop of hot glue and attach to the bottom of the taper candle and insert in the candle holder area.

Now take your flowers, if real cut off most of the leaves, leave a couple for effect and wrap them around the base of the dish. Secure them with hot glue. Be sure if you use real flowers to not do this too early so the flowers are not wilted when placed on the table. If using silk flowers take all the stems off and just use the flower, secure with hot glue. Usually takes about 6 flowers for a silk arrangement and 9-10 for a real flower depending on what size and kind of flower you use. When arranging make sure that the glue and stem are covered up with the next flower. When finished you should just see a ring of beautiful flowers, no stems or glue.

When finished, if real flowers place in the refrigerator to keep them cool. Place on table as desired and sit back and listen to the comments.

Hint: A bright color flower on a white tablecloth is stunning or pull a color from your dishes and use it as the flower color.

From the Activity Department December Highlights

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| 12/2 Wishing Linda Well | 12/3 Movie "To Grandmother's House" |
| 12/4, 12/15 Writing Christmas Cards | 12/6 Decorating the Resident Christmas Tree |
| 12/7 St. Stephen Protomartyr Carolers | 12/7 Happy Hour with The St. Louis Funk Brothers |
| 12/9 Share Home School Entertains | 12/11 Ladies Bingo |
| 12/11 Out Trip/Christmas Lights | 12/13 Twilight Singers |
| 12/16 Filling Christmas Mugs for School Nurses | 12/17 Resident Christmas Store |
| 12/18 St. John the Baptist Carolers | 12/18 Out Trip/ Powell Hall |
| 12/19 Reindeer Races | 12/20 Resident Council |
| 12/20 Cooking for Fun | 12/21 Don Stevenson Entertains |
| 12/22 Joyful Noise Choir | 12/23 Resident Christmas Party |
| 12/25 Andre Rieu Christmas Video | 12/26 Public Library Program/ "Back by Popular Demand (The Holidays)" |
| 12/27 Sandwiches for the Needy | 12/30 Resident Birthday Party |
| 12/31 New Year's Eve Party (7:00—8:30 P.M.) | |

Here we are at the month of December and nearing the end of our year of 2011. We are planning some activities that we hope are enjoyable and meaningful. There will be opportunities to write Christmas cards, decorate the Resident's Christmas tree, enjoy some caroling—both by the residents and those who come to share their songs with all of us, we will have our Reindeer races—they've been getting in practice for Christmas Eve, and a new Christmas movie. There will be our special Resident Christmas Store—come and see what's 'in store' for you—for resident shopping. The two out -trips listed above at this time are completely booked. Since Christmas is on a Sunday this year we will have Mass on Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ; the real Reason for the Season, and later in the afternoon is our All Faith Service @ 2:00 p.m. Also starting @ 2:00 p.m. in the Main Dining Room will be the Andre Rieu Christmas Video. Then to finish out our month we'll have not one, not two, but three parties. Our December Resident Birthday Party, the Resident's Christmas Party, and of course our New Year's Eve party to welcome in 2012!

One more note—it is with much sadness that we say farewell to our co-minister in the Activity Department, Linda Tomlin. She is leaving ABLV and our Activity Department. She will be truly missed as she has brought much joy to our residents and their families while exemplifying the Brothers Values. She has been a truly valuable part of our department. Her last day will be Friday December 2nd and there will be a chance for all to say their farewells and to wish Linda much happiness in the coming year in the Main Dining Room @ 2:30 p.m.

The Activity Department wish everyone a Christmas of Peace, Joy, and Love and a New Year of Health and Happiness. *Joann Evans A. D.*



Alexian Residents are on the Move:

Want to be on our next trip? It's easy just sign up with Joann Evans in activities – 314-880-4715 or stop by her office, the sign-up sheets are on the door.



It is a first come, first serve basis, however to allow all residents a chance for an outing those that have already gone on an outing will be second in line to those that have not gone before. All residents must have a signed permission slip from their Responsible Party to be able to attend.

Come join us for an afternoon of fun! Dates and locations are listed in the front lobby and on Joann Evans door. Sign up as soon as possible as trips book quickly! Here are some of the trips planned:

- December 11th – Christmas Lights at Tillies Park (night trip)**
- December 18th – Christmas Concert at Powell Hall**

***We will have more great trips planned for 2012!
Keep watching for more exciting places to go.***

RESIDENTS' CHRISTMAS \$STORE

(2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the Main Dining Room)

There will be a special in-house shopping day on Saturday December 17th called Residents' Christmas \$store.

(Where everything's a \$1.00)

Each resident will be given 5 (non-legal tender) dollars in an envelope with their name on it. We welcome family to come and bring your loved one to their 'special store'. They can shop for various types of items to give to children, grandchildren, family, friends, or even themselves. For those purchases to be used as a gift for a resident's family member there will be Christmas packaging available at no cost.

There will be Christmas music, refreshments, and a holiday feeling. We hope this will be an afternoon of family time in a unique shopping experience.

Residents do not need a family member to participate in this shopping experience, come and staff / volunteers will be happy to assist you with your shopping.



**We are delighted to share another contribution from
our Resident Loretta Anich**

Peace is ...

By Loretta Anich

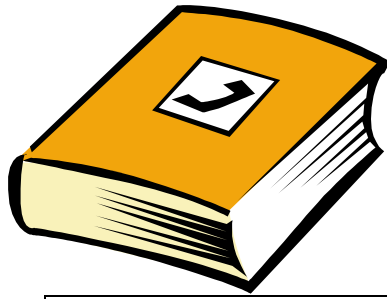
**Peace is a living
intrinsic thing.
It is as small as a
pebble,
But as elusive as a
feather in the wind.**

**Peace is a part of
all peoples
It is a piece
of purity that lies
In the minds,
hearts and souls
of mankind.**



**Peace comes to all
of us like dust
of a winter's dream.
All the scene is
stark and bare.
There is nothing
in-between.**

**Peace stands alone.
There is no such thing
as a partial peace.**



*Our Administrative Team and
Directory*

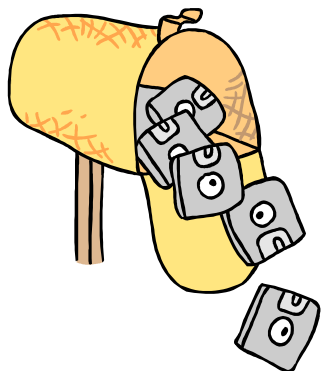
<i>Danny Stricker</i>	<i>Administrator</i>	<i>4200</i>
<i>Brother Richard Lowe</i>	<i>Pastoral Care</i>	<i>4711</i>
<i>Trish Hughes and Steve Allbright</i>	<i>Clinical Liaison</i>	<i>4266</i>
<i>Mariette Bettlach</i>	<i>Central Supply</i>	<i>4230</i>
<i>Tim Borghesi</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>4709</i>
<i>Carrie Bourque</i>	<i>Staff Development</i>	<i>4712</i>
<i>Tracey Ahrens</i>	<i>TCC and Missouri Hall Social Worker</i>	<i>4748</i>
<i>Anthony Columbatto</i>	<i>Director of Admissions</i>	<i>4717</i>
<i>Anita Crocker</i>	<i>Medical Records</i>	<i>4272</i>
<i>Joann Evans</i>	<i>Activity Director</i>	<i>4715</i>
<i>Sandy Ferber</i>	<i>Harvest Hall Assistant</i>	<i>4716</i>
<i>Lee Hines</i>	<i>Director of Nursing</i>	<i>4702</i>
<i>Sandy Howe</i>	<i>Housekeeping</i>	<i>4710</i>
<i>Glenn Jenkins</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>4752</i>
<i>Jamie Klein</i>	<i>First Floor Social Worker</i>	<i>4713</i>
<i>Michelle Moore</i>	<i>Director Therapy</i>	<i>4270</i>
<i>Penny Northern</i>	<i>Patient Accounts</i>	<i>4707</i>
<i>Marilyn Wilson and Becky Wilson</i>	<i>Dietary</i>	<i>4718</i>
	<i>Kitchen</i>	<i>4207</i>
<i>Mary Elders</i>	<i>Beautician</i>	<i>4223</i>
	<i>Laundry</i>	<i>4226</i>
<i>Nance Thier</i>	<i>Admin. Assistant</i>	<i>4701</i>
<i>Elizabeth Yates</i>	<i>Second Floor Social Worker</i>	<i>4704</i>

Did You Know?



Any clothing or personal items that are given to a Resident need to be labeled as soon as possible. This ensures that if something were to get misplaced or lost in the laundry that it can easily be returned to its rightful owner. All items of clothing should be marked with a permanent marker.

If you need a permanent marker, please feel free to ask at the Nurse's station or the Receptionist desk. Please make sure that any new items are noted on your loved one's Personal Inventory sheet which is located in their chart. You can do this by telling the Charge Nurse or CNA about the new items.



*You can make a residents day
EXTRA special with an e-mail!*

Please remember to e-mail your favorite Resident. Simply address your e-mail to: Resident-ablv@alexianbrothers.net. Please put the Resident's name in the subject box so we will know who to deliver it to. The e-mail will be printed out and delivered to your loved one Monday thru Friday. Please send pictures in j-pug format only. Please do not send links to sites or e-cards they are not visible to the Resident in e-mail form.



Trust Me

Does your family member need a haircut?

Do they want a little “spending money?”

Can't get out with bad weather or your feeling a bit under the weather?



Each resident can open a Trust account for any amount of money that they may want. These accounts earn a little interest and it allows the resident to have cash when they want it for a haircut, book sale, bake sale, vending machines or a day out with family, whatever they want.

Just fill out the forms with the Receptionist, Social Services or Penny Northern, place the money in the account and that's it. Each time a resident makes a withdrawal Monday thru Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM or a deposit they are given a receipt.

It's just that easy and so convenient!
Check it out!

