



'Healing' of cherished toy offers lesson on Christ Child's gift to us: **B2**



Death robbed him of friend, but not the hope and joy she freely shared: **B4**



Benedictine's Christmas village brings delight to school children and her community alike: **B6**

A special section of
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Dec. 17, 2017



"Come and Behold Him" was the theme for the 2017 Community Festival of Nativities in Peoria and that's exactly what the children from nearby Holy Family School did. The pre-school students in Chery Craft's class were among the first to visit the festival on Dec. 1, with Henry Anderton and Kate Ho taking in one of the Nativities from Msgr. William Watson's private collection. See the story on page B13.

Christmas Greetings



Holy Family pre-schooler Ryan Kollar looks at the detail in one of the Nativity ornaments on a revolving tree at the 2017 Community Festival of Nativities in Peoria. Classmates Maya Fischer and Isabella Vargas also find sources of wonder in the ornaments.





Llama proves fun and useful gift for family

BLOOMINGTON — Christmas 1994 was a memorable one for Patrick and Rosalie Phelan, who received a llama from their children to help guard their sheep. The Phelans needed more security for the flock when the ram they purchased at the 4-H Fair the previous summer was killed by coyotes. After they received the llama, however, they never lost another sheep to predators.

In the provided photo (above), Pat Phelan looks on as his granddaughter, Sarah Connor Hastings holds the lead of their special Christmas gift.

The Phelans are members of St. Mary Parish in Bloomington.

Festival of Nativities unites community around manger

At a time when so much seems to be dividing humanity, celebrating the birth of Christ is one thing that unites people. That thought is the driving force behind the Community Festival of Nativities in Peoria.

"Come and Behold Him" was the theme for the second annual event, which was sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Church, All Saints Greek Orthodox Church and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was held at the Mormon church and included nearly 1,000 Nativity scenes from around the world.

"Santa and the commercialized aspect has really become dominant in the Christmas season, but exhibiting the Nativity, especially in such a large and unifying format through the festival really keeps us aware that we're all really celebrating the birth of the Lord."

Father James Pallardy

known, also made available their large collection of Rolan Johnson Christmas ornaments and framed art. They are based on the Christmas cards designed by the Peoria man who was considered one of the best screen-print artists in the world.

St. Vincent de Paul's participation in the festival was intended as an ecumenical contribution to Peoria and a way of educating people, according to Father James Pallardy, pastor, who said they brought a

PLEASE TURN TO NATIVITIES B15

PEORIA



Mass times:
Christmas Eve:
4:30 p.m. and
Midnight

Christmas Day:
10 a.m.

St. Ann Church,
Peoria

Merry Christmas

Christmas Eve
4pm - Children's Mass
6pm - Christmas Vigil
10:30pm - Midnight Mass
Join the choir at 10pm for our annual Christmas sing.

Christmas Day
7:30am, 9am, 11am



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*May the blessings
of Christmas
abide with you*

*The message of Christmas
is one of hope and joy.
Let us rejoice in the
newborn King.*

The Staff of
Wright & Salmon
Mortuary

and about 200 Nativities that were collected by Father Ronald Margherio, OSB, chaplain at St. Bede Academy in Peru.

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, or Heading Avenue Franciscans as they are affectionately

St Vincent de Paul PARISH



Merry Christmas

Mass times:
Christmas Eve: 4:30, 6:30 and 10:30 p.m.
Christmas Day: 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m.
New Year's Eve: 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m.
New Year's Day: 9 a.m.

from
Father Pallardy, Father Taylor