



## CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

DECEMBER 2007—JANUARY 2008

December—January  
Mass ScheduleSunday, December 2

11 AM 7 PM 9 PM

Immaculate ConceptionFriday, December 7 (Vigil) 4:35 PMSaturday, December 8 12 NoonSunday, December 9

11 AM 7 PM 9 PM

Sunday, December 16

11 AM 7 PM

Sunday, December 23

11 AM

Monday, December 24

7 PM (Christmas Eve.)

Sunday, December 30

11 AM

Sunday, January 6

11 AM

Sunday, January 13

11 AM

Sunday, January 20

11 AM 7 PM 9 PM

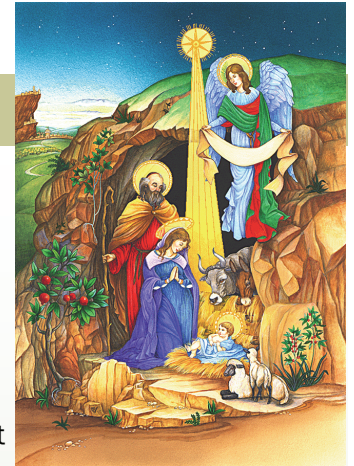
Sunday, January 27

11 AM 7 PM 9 PM

**Weekdays:** 8 AM & 12:05 PM

## CONTINUOUS CHRISTMAS

In that lowly stable of Bethlehem, God, who before had been only heard of, feared and talked about, could now be seen, touched and loved as a baby. Jesus was under the care of his mother Mary and her husband Joseph. He became approachable, accessible, available, vulnerable, loveable and touchable. Instead of welcoming the “good news” about Jesus birth, many people were rather bothered by a God who became “living flesh”, because it seemed that people could deal more easily with a distant God and unseen realities. What was God doing in Jesus, the little baby born in Bethlehem? However, no matter how logical and plausible they are, impersonal ideas that are vague, general and simply academic can never replace the irresistible force of the one who said, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32). No wonder one could proclaim with François Mauriac, “Once you get to know Christ, you cannot be cured of him.” God is not an abstract concept— this would have been easy to handle. But God, as Christ in our daily life and in everyone we meet, is challenging to our lives. No philosophy, not even theology, constitutes a threat until we live it. If God became fully human, the followers of Christ must embrace his way and become fully human as he was. They must embrace his church despite its human brokenness, weakness and sin. In following Christ, they need to learn how to love their neighbors (see Matt 5:34) and their enemies (see Luke 6:27), and forgive 70 times seven times (see Matt 18:22). “Love of God and love of neighbor have become one, in the least of the brethren we find Jesus himself, and in Jesus we find God” (Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter “Deus Caritas Est”). This is how we celebrate the birth of Christ all over again. Christmas did not happen only once some 2,000 years ago, but it is an everyday event, a continuous Christmas that happens again and again.



Every time we incarnate what Jesus told us to do, it is Christmas. Every time we stir more love in others, it is Christmas. Every time we let the Holy Spirit be active in our lives as well as in the lives of others, it is Christmas. Christmas is a continuous celebration — the very soul of Christmas decorations and the very joy of those who delight in decorating. Christmas is the meaning of all things. Christmas is eternal; its eternity should be measured not by time, but by meaning and intensity of being. God has always been with us waiting for our consent, like Mary did, to be born in the manger of our soul. Christmas is this vulnerable baby in the stable. Christmas is this innocent child, this blooming flower, this beautiful mountain. Christmas is a loaf of bread when we are hungry, a cup of water when we are thirsty, a doctor and a nurse when we are sick, a harbor when storm strikes. Christmas is our loving fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, friends, leaders, guides, teachers, comforters, burden bearers and heart-fixers. Christmas is our lawyers and judges who know how to work for justice and fairness. Christmas is our priests who are always ready to serve. Christmas is each and every one of them, right here, right now. God is not just “out there.” God is in here.” God is everywhere. God has never been absent, but God is often unrecognized. The Word of God made flesh corrects this shortsighted and deformed vision of ours by making us see God in all aspects of our lives.

## UPCOMING RETREATS

### New Quest Retreat for 1st Year Students ... January 19th

On Saturday, January 19th there will be a day of retreat for 1st Year students. It will be a time to pause and reflect on the first year experience at Stonehill. An opportunity to look at "Where have I come from? ...Where am I now? ... and Where am I headed? A team of students will assist you in exploring these questions and providing an atmosphere of relaxation, fun and fellowship. It's a great way to transition from Winter break to the start of a new semester and a great way to meet more of your classmates. The day begins with breakfast at 8:30 AM and closes around 3:30 PM. Look for a postcard with an invitation to sign up. Sign up early, there is always limited space on our retreats. Don't be the one left behind.



### Senior Retreat January 25, 26, 27

Don't miss out on an opportunity to get together with friends, share memories and get in touch with yourself and your God. The Senior Retreat takes place on the Cape at Craigville Beach in Centerville. It's a great way to kick off your final semester. You will have the chance to spend time with friends, have some quiet time for yourself and enjoy the surroundings on Cape Cod. Watch for your invitation in the mail and get your application in early. There are limited spaces. Any questions call Campus Ministry or simply stop by.

### Encounters Christ Retreat ... the Winter edition. Feb. 15, 16, 17.



The Team with a Friend

The Encounters Retreat in November proved to be an exciting time. Some of it was planned and some wasn't. We had to stop accepting applications early because we simply ran out of room. The group of 40 retreatants arrived at Camp Burgess on Cape Cod under a beautiful starry sky. The group was full of expectations and energy. They were met by a team of 12 of their peers who had set the stage for their weekend. By Saturday, Mother Nature stepped in and added some excitement of her own. By supper time we had lost power and the wind and rain had come close to hurricane force. We were asked to stay at the main lodge because there was some concern about the cabins. Sure enough a very large tree decided to let go and gently leaned on the roof of one of the cabins. We had to move those students to another building. None of this interfered with the planned activities and left us with memories that will not soon be forgotten. Most of the gang felt that Mother Nature only brought the group closer and added to the excitement of the retreat. By Sunday we were under spectacular blue skies that only happen after a storm. We are looking forward to the next retreat. **A reminder to sign up early when the applications become available so that you won't miss this next opportunity.**

**Campus Christian Fellowship**, also known as CCF, is a non-denominational Christian group that meets weekly to join college students who share similar faiths. This group shares its faith through bible study, concerts, and ice cream socials just to name a few!

If you are interested in joining or would like any other information please contact Brittany Topper at [btopper@student.stonehill.edu](mailto:btopper@student.stonehill.edu), Kathleen Stephan at [kstephan@student.stonehill.edu](mailto:kstephan@student.stonehill.edu), or Stephanie Lanciani at [slanciani@student.stonehill.edu](mailto:slanciani@student.stonehill.edu).

# DECEMBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 1st Sunday of Advent	3	4 Lessons and Carols	5	6	7	8 Immaculate Conception
9 2nd Sunday of Advent	10	11	12 Reading Day Campus Ministry Open House	13	14	15
16 3rd Sunday of Advent	17 Advent Retreat .....	18 .....	19 7:45 AM .....	20 Donahue Hall.....	21 Chapel	22
23 4th Sunday of Advent	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# JANUARY 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	----- New York Urban Immersion -----					
13	14	15 Classes Begin	16	17	18	19 1st Yr. Retreat
20	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27 Sr. Retreat	28	29	30	31	Senior Retreat	

# Theology on Tap

Campus Ministry is pleased to announce the initiation of a new program at Stonehill ..... Theology on Tap  
A program for our 21+ students



**Theology on Tap** is a speaker and conversation series for young adults to learn more about the Catholic faith, make connections between faith and everyday life, and enter into conversation with their peers.

**Theology on Tap** is outreach to young adult Catholics in pursuit of growth in their faith journey. Theology on Tap engages young adults who are twenty-one years of age and older in conversations regarding matters of faith and spirituality. Designed to provide an initiation into an authentic experience of ongoing faith sharing within a small Christian community, Theology on Tap encourages participants to become involved in the larger ecclesial community through active dialogue and greater understanding of critical issues in post-modern culture. Based on a spirit of hospitality, Theology on Tap meets on a regular basis in a pub setting, to enjoy the fraternity and conversation of young adult peers who wish to engage in conversation with a moderator or speaker within the relaxed context of food and drink. In an effort to create programming for young adults twenty-one years of age or older in the Courts, the Heights and Notre Dame du Lac, Campus Ministry will sponsor Theology on Tap once a week on Thursday evenings from 6-7PM at The Hill. One campus minister will host each evening event; student ministers who are twenty-one or over will assist. At our invitation, one theologian/professor will be present to initiate a dialogue and respond to questions. Theology on Tap will begin second semester. Look for more information around campus. If you have any questions contact the Office of Campus Ministry.



**Lessons and Carols**  
**Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00PM.**

This event kicks off our annual Festival of Light and Hope on the Quad. Come and enjoy our beautiful campus as we light the trees, sing carols on the Quad and enjoy steaming hot chocolate and refreshments. Just the thing before the rigor of final exams!

Chapel of Mary 320 Washington Street Easton, MA 02357 Telephone: 508-565-1487

**Chapel and Office Hours during Academic Year: Monday through Thursday 8:30 AM to 9:00 PM,  
Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm**

The Chapel of Mary is open every Sunday through Thursday, twenty four hours a day, when classes are in session, for *prayer and quiet reflection*. The Chapel is also open Fridays until 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. You are invited to use this beautiful sacred space