

## PASTOR'S CORNER

*Fr. Joe on Retreat, Thanksgiving Outreach and Christmas Giving Tree*

**Fr. Joe on Retreat.** The Church requires that a priest make an annual retreat for spiritual refreshment and renewal. Fr. Thien made his retreat two weeks ago. I will be on retreat from the afternoon of November 15 to the evening of November 20. I will spend my retreat in silence without the cell phone, email or Internet. Fr. Thien will be in charge while I am away. Please pray that I have a rejuvenating, grace-filled retreat.



**Thanksgiving Outreach.** Thanksgiving Day will be here soon – a special day to thank God for all our blessings and to spend time with loved ones. It is also a day to think about the many needy people in our midst. We will have a special opportunity to help the poor and needy celebrate Thanksgiving. Deacon Ed's Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul will sponsor a *Thanksgiving Basket* drive, which provides Thanksgiving food to needy families in our parish and community. You can purchase a family's Thanksgiving dinner for \$50 or donate goods for the baskets. Checks payable to St. Francis Xavier (earmarked "Thanksgiving Basket") can be put in the collection basket at Mass or dropped off at the Parish Center on or before November 20. Canned good and other food items can be left at church or dropped off at the Parish Center. Thank you.



**Christmas Giving Tree.** Although Christmas is over a month away, it is time to think about our annual Christmas Giving Tree. The Giving Tree is a Christmas tree filled with paper angel ornaments with the name of a needy person and a gift wish. The names come from our parish ministries to the poor and Angel's Place for terminally ill children.

You are invited to select an ornament, purchase a gift and return the wrapped gift to the church on or before December 6. This is a great way to enter into the spirit of Christmas and to give to a specific individual rather than to a generic Christmas collection for the needy. The Giving Tree will be up in church on the weekend of November 14-15. Thanks to the Daughters of Isabella who coordinate the Giving Tree for our parish and to all who will give gifts and make Christmas a little merrier for the needy in our midst.

God bless,  
Fr. Joe