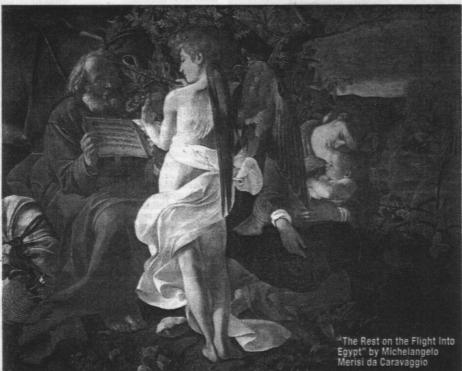
On the town

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART

Master of light

Baroque painter's works a feast of contrast, Odetail

By JUAN CARLOS HERNANDEZ

Medill News Service

ight is life. But to have the talent to use light and its absence to create beauty is a divine gift.

Few artists could manipulate and exalt light and shadow as dramatically as Michelangelo Merisi, known as Caravaggio (1571-1610).

The Baroque painter's works delight the eyes with their contrast and detail and enchant the spirit with their stunning portrayals of the human body.

To see his work is to leave our .world and enter one of life, death, violence, passion and saintliness. The images — most against black or dark backgrounds — invite the viewer to look closer and step in. They are mesmerizing



"The Entombment" by Michelangelo Merisi da Carayaggio

and are sure to hold anyone's attention for minutes and remain in memory thereafter. And now they are within reach.

Thanks to advances in scanning technology, many works by the Italian master are on view in Chicago. Sixty-nine high-tech digital reproductions that are as good as the originals adorn the walls of the Loyola University Museum of Art, also known as LUMA, in the exhibition titled "Caravaggio: una mostra impossibile!"

The title translates to "Caravaggio: The Impossible Exhibition!" A show that gathers

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"Caravaggio: The Impossible Exhibition!"

Where: Loyola University Museum of Art, 820 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago

When: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays to Sundays, closed Mondays; runs through Feb. 3

Cost: Suggested donation is \$6. Students with ID, children younger than 14, seniors, military dependents with ID and Loyola employees with ID are free. Tuesdays are also free. There are guided tours at noon and 2 p.m.

Info: (312) 915-7600 or www.luc.edu/luma



Have a holly, jolly Boxing Day and a retro Hanukkah

Chicago-area Brits can gather with their fellow ex-pats and enjoy complimentary eggnog and half-price beer Saturday at the Globe Pub, 1934 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago.

The Lakeview tavern is open



Barbara Vitello Night life

Sunday for the Chicago Bears game and Monday for Boxing Day (a U.K. holiday celebrated on Dec. 26 and so named because it marked the day servants received gifts or "Christmas

boxes" from their masters). The Globe celebrates with a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings, including Yorkshire pudding, for \$9.50. (773) 871-3757.

Retro Eve: It's complimentary cocktails from 8 to 10 p.m. Saturday during the Retro Eve party for Chicagoarea Jewish singles at Enclave, 213 W. Institute Place, Chicago.

Doors open at 8 p.m. for the party, which features a DJ spinning 1970s and '80s tunes. The cover is \$20 (\$25 for VIP tickets) in advance, \$30 at the door. (312) 654-0234.

Mass tran trips up Tiny Lounge: An upcoming CTA renovation will force the small but incredibly stylish Tiny Lounge out of its current home at 1814 W. Addison St., Chicago.

Not to worry, the owners promise they'll reopen the hip nightspot elsewhere. For updates, check www.tinylounge.com. (773) 296-9620.

Welcome 2006 with a reggae sun splash at Chicago's Café Lura. The Polish-style club at 3184 N. Milwaukee Ave. celebrates the new year reggae-style with an evening of roots, dancehall and rocksteady music.

The cover is \$15. (773) 736-3033.

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