



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
MASS INTENTIONS
Sat, Nov. 29 to Sun, Dec. 7, 2008

Saturday Vigil, Nov. 29 : 4:30 PM Church
 Anniv - Rosemarie Butter (Family)

Sunday, Nov. 30: 7:30 AM Church
 Bruce E. Gray (St. John of God Ushers)

Sunday, Nov. 30: 9:30 AM Chapel
 Anniv - Joseph Ferraro, Sr. (Wife, Marge & Family)

Sunday, Nov. 30: 11:30 AM Church
 Anniv - Anna Marie Ciramella (Frank & Jennie)

WEEKDAYS — 9:30 AM CHURCH

Monday, Dec. 1: Parish Family of St. John of God

Tuesday, Dec. 2: Richard Hamerski (McKees Rocks Industrial M.R.I.E. & Claudia Roth)

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 8:30 AM, Chapel: Students and Staff of St. John of God School

Wednesday, Dec. 3: John Joseph Ferrainolo & Grandmother, Theresa Ferrainolo (Family)

Thursday, Dec. 4: Harry Wagner (Pizza Kitchen)

Friday, Dec. 5: John G. "Red" and Dorothy Breznay Ferrainolo (Family)

Saturday Vigil, Dec. 6: 4:30 PM Church
 Joe, Ken, & Kenney Jr. Delach (Marilyn)

Sunday, Dec. 7: 7:30 AM Church
 Parish Family of St. John of God

Sunday, Dec. 7: 9:30 AM Chapel
 Mary Aluise (Anna Marie & Bill)

Sunday, Dec. 7: 11:30 AM Church
 Eugene & Josephine DePasquale (George & Marge Wolf)

Readings for the Week of November 30, 2008

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

SANCTUARY CANDLE - WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30

MOTHER OF SORROWS - IN MEMORY OF JOHN F. ELLEK BY WIFE, CECILIA

ST. MARY'S - IN MEMORY OF ANNA MARIE CIRAMELLA BY JEAN REDMERSKI

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Monday, Dec. 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation. Following is the Mass schedule in St. John of God Parish for this day:

Monday, Dec. 8: 9:30 AM Church
 11:00 AM Chapel
 6:30 PM Church

No Anticipated Mass on Sunday Evening, Dec. 7, for the Immaculate Conception.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Following the 6:30 PM Mass on Monday, Dec. 8, in the Church at St. Mary's, there will be a Town Hall Meeting in the Church. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to participate in the governance of the parish.

GNOCCHI DINNER

The St. John of God Women's Guild is sponsoring a Gnocchi Dinner this **Sunday, November 30**, serving, Noon to 6 PM in the Social Hall at Mother of Sorrows. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the door.



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's Gospel warns about routines and specifically mentions eating and drinking, raising a family, working and preparing meals. **STAY AWAKE** because routines can numb you to God breaking into your daily life, calling you to higher grounds, "when you least expect."

ATTENDANCE AT ST. JOHN OF GOD PARISH FOR THE WEEKEND OF NOV. 22 / 23

Saturday	320
Sunday	962
Total Weekend Attendance	1,282
Total Weekend Offertory	\$ 6,279.73
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 3,462.75
Parish Share Assessment	\$87,038.00
Parish Share Collected to Date (Thank You!)	\$98,967.30
Excess Parish Share	\$11,929.30

We have successfully raised and paid off the Diocese on our PSP assessment for this year! Thank you for your generosity. From this point on, we get to keep for ourselves all PSP contributions to the end of the year, and tax-free at that. Please continue to use your monthly envelopes at the same rate — it is a year round campaign for us. God bless you for your cooperation.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

ATTENTION TEENS IN GRADES 9-12

Join us on Friday, December 12, as we travel downtown to the Pittsburgh Crèche (the only authorized replica of the Vatican Crèche in the world). After that we'll stop for dinner (bring extra money) and then walk to PPG Place where we'll ice skate from 6:00 to 11:00 PM. Rink admission is \$7 per person plus \$3 for skate rental. To sign up, contact Steve at 412-331-8573 x11 or sigyouthmin@yahoo.com. Join us!

MEMORIAL MASS FOR THE LATE HONORABLE CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL

On Saturday, December 13, 2008 at 11:00 A.M. in St. John of God Parish, the Church at St. Mary's, a Memorial Mass will be celebrated in memory of our parishioner, the late Honorable Catherine Baker Knoll. Everyone is welcome.

MASS AT ST. MARY CEMETERY CHAPEL

So that all may come and celebrate Mass with us at 11:00 AM on Dec. 13, there will not be a Mass at the St. Mary Cemetery Chapel at 1:00 PM on Saturday, Dec. 13. The Mass at the St. Mary Cemetery Chapel will resume on January 10, 2009.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to an Advent Bible Study on Thursday, Dec. 4, in Mother of Sorrows Chapel. For more information, please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.



ANGEL TREE

We once again have an Angel Tree in the Church at St. Mary's and the Chapel at Mother of Sorrows as a sign that St. John of God Parish is a caring community. Here is how the Angel Tree works:

1. Come to the tree and take an Angel ornament. Purchase and wrap the gift in Christmas paper. **No bows please.** Save the Angel, and after wrapping the gift, **attach the Angel to the gift.** This ensures proper delivery to the person.
2. When you have filled the request, come back to the tree with your tagged gift and place the wrapped gift under the tree.

Important: Be sure to bring your gift back to the same tree at the same place that you took it from with the same Angel attached.

We ask that all gifts be returned by Sunday, Dec. 14.

ST. JOHN OF GOD SCHOOL NEWS

FUNDRAISERS

We still have Entertainment Books (\$20), Enjoy Books (\$27), and the Monthly Lottery Calendar (\$5) available in the school office. Call the school office at 412-331-8501.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

As you know, all SJG volunteers who have contact with children (lectors, Eucharistic ministers, adult altar servers, sacristans, cantors, ushers, bingo workers, pizza kitchen workers, festival workers, school volunteers, Sunday school teachers & volunteers, youth ministry volunteers) are required by the Diocese to attend a Protecting God's Children workshop. If you are a member of any of these groups and have not yet attended, a workshop will be held here on Tuesday, December 9, from 6:30 to 9:30 PM in the School library. To register, contact Steve Swank, Safe Environment Coordinator, at 412-331-8573 x 11 or sigyouth@yahoo.com. If you cannot attend this particular workshop, let us know and we can provide you with a list of other upcoming dates/locations. THANK YOU for your tireless dedication to our parish and for helping to ensure that it is a safe environment for our children.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS / BISHOP'S PROJECT

It is once again time for the annual Bishop's Project sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Crafton Council 875. This Sunday, Nov. 30, envelopes will be given to parishioners filled with stickers that you can use on your Christmas cards and letters. We ask that you replace the stickers with a donation that you can afford to give. You can return your donation in the collection basket at Mass. Those who may prefer to mail theirs in may do so. Just put SJG on the envelope so we may get credit for the mailing. All proceeds help the McGuire Home and St. Anthony Programs that s

MEN'S RETREAT

A Men's Retreat for St. John of God and St. Catherine of Siena Parishes will be held at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery on January 30 to February 1. Details and contact information for the retreat will be published next week.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

There will be no Sunday School classes this Sunday, Nov. 30, as we celebrate the Thanksgiving Day weekend. Classes will resume next Sunday, Dec. 7.

RITE OF WELCOMING

Next Sunday, Dec. 7th, we will celebrate the Rite of Welcoming at the 9:30 AM Mass in Mother of Sorrows Chapel. Let us keep our catechumens and candidates in your prayers.

HOSPITAL

Please pray for all parishioners who are in the hospital, especially: **West Hills Health & Rehab** - John Hanobik *Also for those ill at home, in nursing homes, and shut-ins, that they may continue to receive the Lord's Blessings.*

**SYMPATHY**

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Family of Mary Lou DeFillip whom God has called. Please remember her and all our dearly departed and their families in your prayers. *"They whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before. They are now wherever we are"*

THE WEEK AHEAD

Dec. 1 (Mon.) - Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers recited in St. Mary's Church - Rosary begins 6:30 PM.

Dec. 2 (Tues.) - St. Anthony Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's Church.

Dec. 2 (Tues.) - Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7-9 PM in Mother of Sorrows Chapel.

Dec. 3 (Wed.) - **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO!** - MOS Social Hall - Doors open at 5 PM, Early Birds 7 PM, Reg. Games begin at 7:15 PM.

Dec. 3 (Wed.) - Cub Scout Meeting, 6-7:30 PM in the Gathering Place.

Dec. 5 (Fri.) - Mother of Sorrows Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's Church.

Dec. 5 (Fri.) - **PIZZA KITCHEN and it's FALAGONE FRIDAY!** To order call 412-331-8530 on Fridays, 8 AM-1 PM. Orders must be picked up by 3:45 PM.

BAPTISMAL PROGRAM FOR NEW AND EXPECTING PARENTS

The program will be held next Sunday, December 14, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in Mother of Sorrows Chapel. For more information or to register, please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: TUESDAY NOON

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM (MONDAY THRU FRIDAY)

FIRST PENANCE AND COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Some of our young members will be celebrating the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on Monday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 PM in St. Mary's Church. This will take place during an Advent Communal Service to which the whole parish is invited and encouraged to participate in. This will be the perfect opportunity to go to confession before Christmas.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - A GHOST STORY

December 12 - 21, 2008; Friday & Saturdays

at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM

At The Father Ryan Arts Center

"A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story" adapted for the stage by James Critchfield from Charles Dicken's classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the spirits of Christmas, is a holiday tradition filled with magic and wonder of the season. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5.00 for children 12 & under. Call the Father Ryan Arts Center at 412-771-3052.

CHRISTMAS TREASURES CONCERT

TriCounty Choir Institute's Village Singers, Teen Chorale, Choraleers and Village Quartet invite you to their "Christmas Treasures" Concert **next Sunday, Dec. 7**, to be held at St. James Gymnasium in Sewickley at 2:00 PM. Advance Sale reduced tickets are available for \$5 for Adults and \$3 for children under 10 by calling 724-266-2075.

Win FREE Bingo Admission for ONE YEAR!

That's right, our **FIFTH ANNUAL BINGO BONANZA!**



This year we are, once again, giving away a Bingo Pass for the entire year of 2009. Join us for Bingo on the following Wednesdays – **DECEMBER 3, DECEMBER 10 and DECEMBER 17** to be eligible for this spectacular give-a-way. On Wednesday, December 3 each Bingo player will receive their registration card. Our doors open at 5:00 PM each week with Early Birds playing at 7:00! Our One-Year Free Admission Prize will be awarded on Wednesday, December 17. To be eligible for this fabulous prize, you must have played Bingo with us each of the Wednesdays listed, registered with us and be present on December 17 to win! Come join us for lots of fun and win some extra Christmas cash. We give away a \$1,000.00 jackpot each week. Bingo will be closed on the following Wednesdays: November 26, December 24, and December 31. See you at the Bingo!

December, 2008

Dec. 6 - 7	Sat 4:30 PM	Sun 7:30 AM	Sun 9:30 AM	Sun 11:30 AM
Lector	Charlotte Schriener Terry Fedio	Michael Ivosevic Tami Ivosevic	Children's Mass Children's Mass	Wanda Mruczek John Friel
Altar Server	Anna Marie Kilonsky Michael Roussey Brian Benedetti	Tim McGuillan Dallas Woods	Jacob Scott Kevin Barbour Emily Halbedl	Matthew DiSanto Alex Adams Tom Adams
Euch. Min.	Gerrie Bayer Anne Lutz Zacharias Alexis Adamchik Rosemarie Litterini Mike Tomsko Carole Yunker	Nina Ivosevic Ron Amity Sr. Claudia Hemphill Mark Honath	Theresa Davis Margaret Ferraro Neve Mell Dominic Puppo Angela Ciccone Kelly Hall	Edward McNabb Gloria McNabb Tracy Olanyk George Wolf
Dec. 13 - 14	Sat 4:30 PM	Sun 7:30 AM	Sun 9:30 AM	Sun 11:30 AM
Lector	Patricia Golembiewski Ann Tkacik	Mary Ann Scrabis Tom Burgunder	Children's Mass Children's Mass	Julienne Giuliani Joanne Malenock
Altar Server	Cassandra Cropper Wesley Cropper Brian Benedetti	Tim McGuillan Dallas Woods	Christopher Cercone Elizabeth Diehl Victoria Diehl	Michael Dorrenbacher Wesley Dorrenbacher Christopher Linnert
Euch. Min.	Christina Phillips Tom Phillips Donna Placon Charlotte Schriener Gerrie Bayer Terry Fedio	George Wolf Ron Amity Sr. Claudia Hemphill Mark Honath	Al Condeluci Liz Condeluci Bill Stropkaj Sr. Steve Tomsko Frank Troff Dominic Puppo	Gizella Fedorka Patsy Mance Eleanor Vith Mike Tomsko
Dec. 20 - 21	Sat 4:30 PM	Sun 7:30 AM	Sun 9:30 AM	Sun 11:30 AM
Lector	Terry Fedio Patricia Golembiewski	Donna Klocek Spohn Tami Ivosevic	Lou Lacivita Neve Mell	John Friel Tracy Olanyk
Altar Server	Anna Marie Kilonsky Michael Roussey Matthew DiSanto	Tim McGuillan Dallas Woods	Jared Hall Kevin Barbour Emily Halbedl	Alex Adams Tom Adams Brian Benedetti
Euch. Min.	Rosemarie Litterini Charlotte Schriener Carole Yunker Anne Lutz Zacharias Alexis Adamchik Gerrie Bayer	Ron Amity Sr. Claudia Hemphill Mark Honath Mary Ann Scrabis	Eric Hall Kelly Hall Theresa Davis Dominic Puppo Bill Stropkaj Sr. Margaret Ferraro	Edward McNabb Gloria McNabb Wanda Mruczek George Wolf
Dec. 27 - 28	Sat 4:30 PM	Sun 7:30 AM	Sun 9:30 AM	Sun 11:30 AM
Lector	Ann Tkacik Tom Burgunder	Joanne Malenock Tami Ivosevic	Al Condeluci Steve Tomsko	Mary Ann Scrabis Donna Klocek Spohn
Altar Server	Cassandra Cropper Wesley Cropper Matthew DiSanto	Tim McGuillan Dallas Woods	Jacob Scott Christopher Cercone Kevin Barbour	Christopher Linnert Alex Adams Tom Adams
Euch. Min.	Mike Tomsko Alexis Adamchik Charlotte Schriener Terry Fedio Rosemarie Litterini Anne Lutz Zacharias	Michael Ivosevic Nina Ivosevic Ron Amity Sr. Claudia Hemphill	Liz Condeluci Bill Stropkaj Sr. Frank Troff Mark Honath Angela Ciccone Theresa Davis	Gizella Fedorka Julienne Giuliani Patsy Mance Eleanor Vith

PASTOR'S CORNER
Fr. Lou Vallone

There are six preset buttons on my car radio. Each one can be programmed for three different stations: AM, FM 1 and FM 2. When I bought the car a year ago, I preset two AM stations, and 4 FM stations, all to "Oldies" formats, and left the other 12 alone. Now, only one station each AM and FM consistently plays Oldies, and I have never changed the buttons! Rather, the stations have changed their playlists.

Oh, some of them still purport to be the same content. One station lists itself as "Jammin' Oldies", but I must be a jelly person because I never seem to recognize any of the songs they now play. Another station touts that it plays the "Classic hits of the '90's." How something that was recorded about the same time I got my last haircut can be proclaimed "classic" is beyond my comprehension. I do have quite a number of audiotapes that preserve for my enjoyment the type of Oldies music that I like to listen to in the car. But there is only room for a few of them in the holder on the console. The rest are in various containers in the trunk, and I have found people get very impatient when I jump out of my car at a red light or stop sign to root around in the trunk for a Neil Diamond or Harry Chapin tape to accompany me in rush hour traffic. I therefore have been reduced for the most part to listening to just one station on a continuous basis, commercials and all.

Yesterday, a favorite tune of mine from the late 60's came on: "Things are gonna get easier." I remember all the lyrics very fondly, and even have specific times in mind from that period in my life

continued next column . . .

when I listened to the song and believed the promise. My favorite line was: "Someday, yeah! We'll put it together and we'll get it undone. Someday, things will get brighter."

This week we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas. It will be my 36th such season as a priest, my 4th as Pastor of St. John of God and 3rd as Pastor of St. Catherine of Siena. I sit and look at the schedule for the next month - Advent series, Penance Service, School Programs, decorating schedules, end of the year reports, liturgical decisions, trying to outguess the weather in terms of heating the plant and keeping the snow clear, fitting in my retreat, celebrating the Holy Day of Obligation, fitting in Town Hall Meetings - and a myriad of other things that I don't even have room to list. One would think that having been through this so many times that experience and familiarity would make it almost automatic. But the truth is I find it just as challenging and difficult to do all the things that I feel necessary to insure a spiritual and meaningful Christmas season. The pressure is as great as it was my first year.

So, even after 36 years, I'm still looking forward to the time when I can "put it together and get it undone" so that "things are gonna get easier."

And, remember, Jesus is the reason for the season, and it ain't Christmas till it's Christmas!

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



St. John of God Parish Membership Form



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

CHECK ONE:

- New Registration Change of Address Moving out of Parish Want Envelopes

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to Rectory.