



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat., Dec. 5 to Sun., Dec. 13, 2009

Saturday Vigil, Dec. 5: 4:30 PM Church
Anniv - Joe, Ken & Kenny Jr. Delach (Marilyn)

Sunday, Dec. 6: 7:30 AM Church
Mary C. Beasock (Husband & Family)

Sunday, Dec. 6: 9:30 AM Chapel
Patsy & Mary Aluise and Bill Stropkaj (Family)

Sunday, Dec. 6: 11:30 AM Church
Dorothy Triscila (Nell Sabol)

WEEKDAYS — 9:30 AM CHURCH

Monday, Dec. 7: Parish Family of Saint John of God

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday Vigil, Dec. 7: 4:30 PM, Church
Anniv - James Mars (Family)

Tuesday Holy Day, Dec. 8: 9:30 AM, Church
Anniv - Patricia Zane (Children)

Tuesday Holy Day, Dec. 8: 11:00 AM, Chapel
Parish Family of Saint John of God

Tuesday Holy Day, Dec. 8: 6:30 PM, Church
Mom, Stella & Ted Shubert Family (Walt & Adela)

Town Hall Meeting Following 6:30 PM Mass

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Rose & Vincent Marks (Dgthr, Lisa)

Thursday, Dec. 10: Julie Treglia (Adele Puppo)

Friday, Dec. 11: Anniv - Mary Ann Pilotta (Family)

Saturday Vigil, Dec. 12: 4:30 PM Church
Infant Jesus (Rosemarie)

Sunday, Dec. 13: 7:30 AM Church
Parish Family of Saint John of God

Sunday, Dec. 13: 9:30 AM Chapel
Dolly Musmanno (Family)

Sunday, Dec. 13: 11:30 AM Church
Andrew Martonic (Leona Szymbosskey Surly)

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2009

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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“YEAR OF THE PRIEST” PARISH PRAYER

God, give us worthy priests in sufficient numbers.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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



Dec. 7, Monday Vigil, 4:30 PM, Church

Dec. 8, Tuesday, Holy Day: 9:30 AM Church,
11 AM Chapel and 6:30 PM Church.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Following the 6:30 PM on Tuesday, 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 come hear the Pastor's report and participate in this form of governance of the parish.

R.C.I.A. NEWS

RITE OF WELCOMING

St. John of God Parish will celebrate the Rite of Welcoming for those already Baptized this Sunday, Dec. 6, during the 9:30 AM Mass in Mother of Sorrows Chapel. We offer our special prayers for *Darlene Dickinson, John Hack Jr. and Michael Hack*. May God's loving guidance be with you as you continue your journey into full initiation into the Catholic Church.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATKI)

The Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) are available after all Masses or at the parish office. The cost is \$3.00 for a package of four.

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS MONASTERY RETREAT WEEKEND

Jesus Tell Me A Story To Guide Me!

Our Sister Parish of St. Catherine of Siena will once again sponsor a men's weekend retreat in January open to all the men in St. John of God Parish as well. The theme of this year's retreat is based upon the parables of Jesus. The date of the retreat weekend is January 29-31, 2010. This is a wonderful weekend to experience the Holy Trinity in a unique way to each individual. For those who say their life is too busy, Mother Theresa would tell others to pray longer when their lives are too hectic and busy. Brochures are available at the St. John of God parish office if you are interested. For more information, please call Bob Bittner at 724-378-0903.

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday Noon

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The Youth Group will deliver Christmas flowers to area nursing homes after school on Friday, December 18 (meet at the Youth Center at 3:15 PM with your permission form). All teens in grades 9-12 are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to help others!

Teens in grades 9-12 are invited to **visit the Pittsburgh Crèche and then go ice skating** at the PPG Rink on Tuesday, December 29. Rink admission is \$7 per person plus \$3 for skate rental. To sign-up, contact Steve at 412-331-8573 or sigyouthmin@yahoo.com.

**PARISH WEEKEND ATTENDANCE
Nov. 28 / 29**

Saturday.....	396
Sunday.....	990
Total Weekend Attendance.....	1,386

**PARISH FINANCIAL TOTALS
For the Weekend of Nov. 28 / 29**

Regular Offertory Collection\$ 5,562.00

(This is ordinary income from contributions for the general running of the parish. It is subject to a 17.6% tax to the Diocese of Pittsburgh.)

PARISH SHARE PROGRAM

PSP Assessment for 2009	\$93,361.00
Contributions to date	\$104,934.30
Excess Parish Share (Thank You!).....	\$11,573.30

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.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Caring Heights Community Care and Rehab Center (formerly Sycamore Creek Nursing Home), 234 Coraopolis Rd, Kennedy Town-

ship, is hosting a community Holiday Open House on Thursday, December 10, 4 to 7 PM at the facility. Live entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, gift shop and raffles will be available. Come and tour the fresh, updated building, see the new "Serenity Suite" and meet your Caring Heights neighbors. Call 412-331-6060 for info and to RSVP by Dec. 4.

ST. JOHN OF GOD SCHOOL NEWS



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Hosted By

St. John of God School & Stowe Twp. Volunteer Fire Department

Sunday, December 13, 2009

9 AM to 2 PM

St. John of God Social Hall

Adult Breakfast \$5.00 & Children \$3.00

Tickets are available at the school office or at the door.

Includes Pancake and Sausage breakfast and age appropriate gift ~~ Picture with Santa available
All proceeds benefit families in need.

HOSPITAL

Please pray for all parishioners who are in the hospital, especially: **Caring Heights** - Howard Beasock **Broadmore Assisted Living** - Stephanie Domka **Ohio Valley** - Rosemary Homer **Suburban General** - Ruth Ondo *Also for all 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 Helen Karas, Vivian D'Amico, Mary Martonik, Paul DiVecchio, Herbert Lucot, Robert Medwid Sr., Stanley Stempkowski and Caroline Crawley (sister of Rose DeLouis) whom God has called. Please remember them and all our dearly departed and their families in your prayers. *"May the Choirs of Angels receive them and may they with once poor Lazarus, have rest everlasting."*

**MAKE A GIFT THROUGH AN
IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER**

In most years, if you are over the age of 70 1/2, you must take a required minimum distribution from your IRA. In 2009, however, you may instruct your IRA custodian to withhold the normal required distribution. As usual, the amount of any distribution is taxed as ordinary income. However, federal legislation enacted on October 3, 2008 extends the opportunity for you, for the remainder of 2009, to make a direct distribution from your IRA to a qualified charity, such as St. John of God Parish or School. Such distributions, up to \$100,000, are not subject to income tax.

For more information about how you and our parish or school can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, contact the parish office or Paul Stabile, the Director of Planned Giving for the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, at 412-456-3055.

STEELERS FOOTBALL POOL WINNERS



November 29, 2009
Steelers vs. Ravens

Half Time Score: Steelers 7 Ravens 14
Irish Ian owned by Barbara Mollica \$100
T T J owned by Thomas Marnich \$100

Final Score: Steelers 17 Ravens 20
MADz owned by Mary Ann Dzurenda \$150
Betty Jo/Tom owned by Betty Jo Walsh \$150

CONGRATULATIONS and LET'S GO STEELERS!

STEEPLE CHASE SUPER BOWL FOOTBALL POOL

Regular season football is still underway, and we don't know who will play in this year's Super Bowl yet. But, we do know the game is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010 between the AFC and the NFC. We hope the AFC team is the Steelers, but even if it isn't, we are offering two versions of a Super Bowl pool. There are 100 blocks in each pool. One pool will cost \$30, will have **two** payouts for a total **\$1,500**: \$500 half time, \$1,000 final. The other pool will cost \$100, will have **four** payouts for a total **\$5,000**: \$500 1st quarter, \$1,000 half-time, \$500 3rd quarter, \$3,000 final. **(Payment plan available for \$100 pool only)** The names and numbers for each pool will be randomly drawn in advance. You will receive a copy of your completed pool prior to the Super Bowl. Purchase a square for yourself or partner with a friend to buy one. Consider buying some as gifts. Name your block and fill out the form below. **Go Steelers!** Questions call Terry 412-331-3443 or Charlotte 412-331-2453.

SUPER BOWL POOL

PLEASE PRINT, FILL OUT COMPLETELY, DROP IN COLLECTION BASKET OR PARISH OFFICE MAIL SLOT, OR MAIL TO: SJOG PARISH, "SUPER BOWL POOL," 1011 CHURCH AVE., MCKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

(PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE FOR \$100 POOL ONLY)

_____ Square(s)@**\$30/square (\$1,500 payout)** =\$_____ (AMOUNT ENCLOSED)

_____ Square(s)@**\$100/square (\$5,000 payout)** =\$_____ (AMOUNT ENCLOSED)

I would like to name my square(s) _____

Name _____

Full Address w/ZIP _____

Phone _____

BAPTISMAL PROGRAM FOR NEW AND EXPECTING PARENTS

The next class will be held on Sunday, December 13, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM in Mother of Sorrows Chapel. To register or for more information, call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Dec. 7 (Mon.) - Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers recited in St. Mary's Church - Rosary begins 6:30 PM.

Dec. 8 (Tues.) - St. Anthony Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's Church.

Dec. 9 (Wed.) - **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO** in MOS Social Hall - Doors open at 5 PM Early Birds, 7 PM and Regular Games begin at 7:15 PM

Dec. 9 (Wed.) - Cub Scout Mtg, 6-7:30 PM, Gathering Place - Call Jeff Kotek, 412-855-1933 for information.

Dec. 11 (Fri.) - Mother of Sorrows Novena Prayers recited following 9:30 AM Mass, St. Mary's Church.

Dec. 11 (Fri.) - **PIZZA KITCHEN!** To order please call 412-331-8530 on Fridays, 8 AM – 1 PM. Orders must be picked up by **3:30 PM**.

PIZZA KITCHEN NEWS

The Pizza Kitchen will be closed on the following Fridays, Dec. 18, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Our items do freeze well. So, order some extras (pizza, sausage roll, spinach roll, fried cakes, pasta & beans) this Friday, Dec. 11 and have them over the holidays.

SANCTUARY CANDLE - WEEK OF DECEMBER 6

ST. MARY'S - IN MEMORY OF JOE, KEN, AND KENNY JR DELACH BY MARILYN MOTHER OF SORROWS - IN MEMORY OF CECILIA ELLEK BY SON, JOHN

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES

St. Joseph Parish in Coraopolis is now offering one-day Marriage Preparation Courses (prepared in conformity with Diocesan guidelines) on the following dates: January 23, 2010; April 24, 2010 and August 21, 2010. The class will run from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. The fee of \$75 includes a light breakfast and buffet luncheon. To register for any of these classes, you either call St. Joseph Parish at 412-264-6162 or download a registration form from their website at www.saintjosephparish.net. Class size is limited to 40 couples per session.

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Monday thru Friday)



COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Some of our young members will be celebrating the Sacrament of Penance for the first time next Monday, Dec. 14, at 6:30 PM in St. Mary's Church. This will take place during an Advent Communal Penance Service to which the entire parish family of St. John of God is invited and encouraged to participate in. This will be the perfect opportunity to go to confession before Christmas.

ADVENT MUSICAL PROGRAM

"ONE VOICE", Pittsburgh's premiere Christian vocal ensemble, will perform their 2009 Advent musical program at Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church, 200 Grace St. in McKees Rocks (Stowe Twp.) next Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 2 PM.

A free-will offering will be taken, with a light reception to follow. For more info, please call 412-760-4558.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The McKees Rocks Historical Society will hold a Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM at The Room at Rockefeller's, Kennedy Township Plaza. All are welcome to attend. Please call Vicki at 412-771-4266 for more information.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

All are invited to join Bishop Zubik for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass on Friday, December 11, 7:00 PM at St. Paul Cathedral. The celebration begins at 6:30 PM with the "Our Lady" procession. Enjoy the festive reception afterwards in the Cathedral's social hall. For more information, please call 412-456-3170.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CHARITIES COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A longstanding tradition in the Diocese of Pittsburgh on Christmas Day is the Charities collection for Children and Youth. The proceeds from this collection are used to support a number of programs in our Diocese, which serve many children and young people who depend on our generosity and our loving concern for them.

This collection will be taken at all Masses celebrated for Christmas in St. John of God Parish. Also, this collection is a two-fold win. Not only does it help children and youth, but all proceeds collected will be credited towards our Parish Share Assessment. Since we have met our Parish Share goal for 2009, this money will stay in the parish and not be taxed by the Diocese.



ANGEL TREE

A little reminder to those who took an Angel from the Angel Tree. Here is what to do next.

1. 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 same Angel attached. **All gifts must be returned by December 13.**

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - A GHOST STORY

December 11 - 20, 2009; Fridays & Saturdays

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

Father Ryan Arts Center, 420 Chartiers Ave.

Actors Civic Theater presents "A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story" adapted by Mary Randolph and James Critchfield from Charles Dickens' classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the spirits of Christmas. Enjoy a holiday tradition filled with the magic and wonder of the season. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for senior adults (age 65 and older) and children (age 18 and younger). To purchase tickets call ProArts at 412-394-3353. For more information, please call the Arts Center at 412-771-3052.

FALL ARTS EDUCATION SHOWCASE

Saturday, December 12, 2009

Father Ryan Arts Center, 420 Chartiers Ave.

Featuring an all-ages visual arts exhibit, dance performances by preschool, elementary, middle school and adult dancers, music recitals and theater performances beginning at 2:00 PM.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 years old and younger and will be sold at the door. All proceeds benefit the FRAC arts education classes. For more information, call 412-771-3052.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next Sunday, Dec. 13, the second collection will be for the Parish Share Program. If you forget to bring your envelope next weekend, just bring it any time that is convenient. Thank you.

FOOD COLLECTION

Our parish will collection non-perishable food items, as well as paper products and soap, for the needy among us. You may bring your donation with you to any Mass next weekend, Dec. 12/13. Thanks in advance.

PASTOR'S CORNER
Fr. Lou Vallone

On Friday, December 11, I will mark my 4th anniversary as Pastor of St. John of God and my 3rd at St. Catherine of Siena. Beginning with my first pastorate in 1981, I wrote the following article as a commitment to my ministry. I have done so in each of the six parishes I have served as Pastor. As is my custom, I repeat that commitment yearly. It will be up to you to decide whether I live up to it or not.

"I have practiced many a year
And have come a long, long way
Just to play for you.
So many will be the blessings
And so short will be the time
That I stay with you."

The pop singing duet Seals & Crofts always began their concerts with this signature song: a musical promise of commitment to the time spent together with the audience, a pledge to give their all in talent and energy to form a relationship with their listeners. By this song, they signaled their feeling that their music was not merely a commercial arrangement (you buy the ticket, we sell the melody) but rather the communal sharing of an experience, in which the artists were as dependent upon the response of the hearers as were the hearers upon the artists for providing good music. If this is true for musicians, it is more so for priests. We have all practiced many a year: through seminary training and internships and the experiences of our past assignments. We have come a long, long way from our homes, families, friends, lives and previous parishes, each with but one thing in mind: to play for you. That is to say, we wish to cherish and serve the people and

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community that we are sent to on behalf of the diocese, the bishop, the Universal Church, the Pope, but most of all on behalf of the One High Priest, Jesus Christ.

Every priest is but a human being; each as such is different from all others in ability, weakness, personality, skills, faults. But all are the same in that they are committed to giving and doing their best for the flock that has been entrusted to their care, within the limits of their individuality. Some of the things that priests do are similar: celebrating Mass; marrying; baptizing; burying; counseling; visiting the sick; teaching and preaching the faith; witnessing by their words and actions their belief and the love of God for His people.

Above and beyond that, to some are given the responsibilities of administration or education or some other charge. But no matter what it is we do, we are dependent upon the good will, cooperation, acceptance, tolerance and support of our people. Like singers, our ministry is empty if it is not interactive and relational with the parishioners. We make the music together, or it is not made at all.

"You can say that I'm your friend
You can see my life begin and end.
I love you, Yes, I do.
You'll always be special to me."

This year, the Year of the Priest, please join me in praying for the grace and strength to continue to serve these parishes as well as you deserve.

"God, give us worthy priests in sufficient numbers."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
FR. LOU!!!
DECEMBER 7, 1947



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.