

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT****MASS INTENTIONS****Sat, Dec. 6 to Sun, Dec. 14, 2008**

<b>Saturday Vigil, Dec. 6 :</b>	<b>4:30 PM Church</b>
Joe, Ken, & Kenney Jr. Delach (Marilyn)	
<b>Sunday, Dec. 7:</b>	<b>7:30 AM Church</b>
Parish Family of St. John of God	
<b>Sunday, Dec. 7:</b>	<b>9:30 AM Chapel</b>
Mary Aluise (Anna Marie & Bill)	
<b>Sunday, Dec. 7:</b>	<b>11:30 AM Church</b>
Eugene & Josephine DePasquale (George & Marge Wolf)	

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**Monday, Dec. 8, 9:30 AM Church:**  
Anniv - Mary Ann Pilotta (Family)

**Monday, Dec. 8, 11:00 AM Chapel:**  
Parish Family of St. John of God

**Monday, Dec. 8, 6:30 PM Church:**  
Dorothy Heiser (Elmer & Mary Kalman)

**WEEKDAYS — 9:30 AM CHURCH**

<b>Tuesday, Dec. 9:</b>	Vincent & Rose Marks (Daughter, Lisa)
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 10, 8:30 AM, Chapel:</b>	Students and Staff of St. John of God School
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 10:</b>	George Jencik (Marlene Vlasach)
<b>Thursday, Dec. 11:</b>	Agnes Fedio (Teresa Gery)
<b>Friday, Dec. 12:</b>	Wesley Bromley (Fran Pugliese)

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 11:00 AM Church:**  
Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll

<b>Saturday Vigil, Dec. 13:</b>	<b>4:30 PM Church</b>
Antonetta Presutti (Family)	
<b>Sunday, Dec. 14:</b>	<b>7:30 AM Church</b>
Albert Frydlewicz & George and Margaret Cerovski (Wife & Daughter, Mary & Family)	
<b>Sunday, Dec. 14:</b>	<b>9:30 AM Chapel</b>
Dominic DiNardo (Wife & Children)	
<b>Sunday, Dec. 14:</b>	<b>11:30 AM Church</b>
Charles Butter (Family)	

**Readings for the Week of December 7, 2008**

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
<b>Monday:</b>	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
<b>Thursday:</b>	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
<b>Friday:</b>	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47
<b>Saturday:</b>	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**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.

**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.

**FIRST PENANCE AND COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE**

Some of our young members will be celebrating the Sacrament of Penance for the first time next 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.

**CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATKI)**

The Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) are available after all Masses or at the parish office. The cost is \$2.00 for a package of four.

**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](mailto:sigyouthmin@yahoo.com). Join us!

**CRIME WATCH MEETING**



The Sto-Rox Community is invited to a Crime Watch Meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Sto-Rox High School Cafeteria, 1105 Valley Street. You are requested to bring a snack, treat, or covered dish to share with your neighbors.

**ATTENDANCE AT ST. JOHN OF GOD PARISH FOR THE WEEKEND OF NOV. 29 / 30**

Saturday .....	355
Sunday .....	695
<b>Total Weekend Attendance .....</b>	<b>1,050</b>

<b>Total Weekend Offertory .....</b>	<b>\$ 5,286.07</b>
<b>Parish Share Assessment .....</b>	<b>\$87,038.00</b>
<b>Parish Share Collected to Date (Thank You!)</b>	<b>\$99,142.30</b>
<b>Excess Parish Share .....</b>	<b>\$12,104.30</b>

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.

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND, DEC. 6/7**

Bishop David Zubik has asked all parishes to take up a second collection this weekend, Dec. 6 & 7 to help Catholic Charities, the social services arm of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, cope with a 40% increase in requests for assistance. Your generosity will be very much appreciated.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE: TUESDAY NOON**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

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

**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.

**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 the same Angel attached.

*We ask that all gifts be returned by next Sunday, December 14.*

**FLOWER DELIVERY TIME**

Those parishioners who, so kindly, signed up to deliver Christmas flowers to shut-ins can pick them up on Thursday morning, Dec. 18, or Friday, Dec. 19, all day long. If any of these times are not feasible, please call the parish office, 412-771-5646, to make other arrangements. The flowers may be delivered at your convenience.

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL - A GHOST STORY**

*December 12 - 21, 2008; Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM  
Father Ryan Arts Center, 420 Chartiers Ave.*



"A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story" directed by Mary Randolph and 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 the magic and wonder of the season. Performed by members of Actors Civic Theatre, the professional theater company in residence at the Father Ryan Arts Center, this beloved holiday classic is a treat for the whole family to enjoy. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5.00 for children 12 years of age and younger. For more information, call 412-771-3052.

## MEN'S RETREAT AT ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS MONASTERY



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, 2009 to February 1, 2009. St. Paul's is located on the hilltops of the South Side of Pittsburgh. The retreat begins Friday evening, Jan. 30 and concludes around noon time on Sunday, Feb. 1. Car pooling is available for those who need it or you may wish to drive yourself. The retreat can be flexible for those who can only make Saturday morning or for those who need to leave prior to the closing Mass on Sunday morning. Yes, the Super Bowl is Feb. 1, BUT there is plenty of time for us to get back to McKees Rocks and Crescent Township. For more information, please contact Bob Bittner at 724-378-0903 or Jim Barcaskey at 724-457-7764.

## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

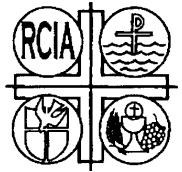
As you know, all SJG volunteers who have contact with children (lectors, Eucharistic ministers, adult altar servers, sacristans, cantors, ushers, bingo workers, pizza kitchen workers, festival workers, school volunteers, Sunday school teachers & volunteers, youth ministry volunteers) are required by 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 **this 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](mailto: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.

## MARRIAGE PREPARTION COURSE



Saint Joseph Parish in Coraopolis is offering a one day Marriage Preparation Course which is being prepared in conformity with diocesan guidelines. The class will be held on January 24, 2009 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The fee of \$65 includes a light breakfast and buffet luncheon. For more information, please call Saint Joseph Parish at 412-264-6162

## R.C.I.A. NEWS



The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and the Rite of Welcoming for those already Baptized will be celebrated this Sunday, Dec. 7, during the 9:30 AM Mass in Mother of Sorrows Chapel. We offer our special prayers for those entering the Catechumenate: *Keith Dix, Wendi Slusser, Dale Warner, and Jane Warner* and for our Candidates already Baptized: *Cathleen Kilonsky, Rose Namisnak, and Cynthia Sheets.*

May God's loving guidance be with them as they continue their journey into full initiation into the Catholic Church.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Dec. 8 (Mon.)** - The Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers will be prayed privately.

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

**Dec. 9 (Tues.)** - "Protecting God's Children" workshop, 6:30 to 9:30 PM in the St. John of God School Library.

**Dec. 10 (Wed.)** - **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO!** - MOS Social Hall - Doors open at 5 PM, Early Birds 7 PM, Reg. Games begin at 7:15 PM.

**Dec. 10 (Wed.)** - Cub Scout Meeting, 6-7:30 PM in the Gathering Place.

**Dec. 12 (Fri.)** - Mother of Sorrows Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's Church.

**Dec. 12 (Fri.)** - **PIZZA KITCHEN!** To order call 412-331-8530 on Fridays, 8 AM-1 PM. Orders must be picked up by 3:45 PM.

## 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 Families of Alfred Calore, Anna Geyer, John Sibenik, and Katherine Cernansky 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 the once poor Lazarus have rest everlasting."*

**“DO ANGELS REALLY SING ON CHRISTMAS EVE?”**

A new CD featuring the voices of 100 singers from St. Joseph Parish in Coraopolis is now on sale. The CD contains beautiful original Christmas Music composed by Organist and Choir Director, Virginia Ambrose, organist for the Diocese of Pittsburgh since 1974. There are some traditional songs like, "Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle" sung by Houston Opera Baritone, Liam Bonner, as well as a hauntingly beautiful new composition by Mrs. Ambrose called, "O Mio Tesoro" sung by bass-Baritone, Joe Deren. The title track of the CD, "Do Angels Really Sing On Christmas Eve" speaks to the heart and soul of Christmas, recapturing the true meaning of the holiday, and the youthful excitement we knew as children! The cost of the CD is \$10 if purchased at the church, and \$13 if ordered through the mail. All proceeds go to St. Joseph School. Mail a check or money order payable to St. Joseph Church, 1304 Fourth Avenue, Coraopolis, PA 15108. Or if you need more information, you may call St. Joseph's at 412-264-6162.



**AUDITIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE AGE STUDENTS**

TriCounty Choir Institute's Teen Chorale is holding auditions for high school and college age students on Sunday, January 11, from 1:30 PM to 6:30 PM at St. James Church Gymnasium in Sewickley. There is no cost involved. Free voice and acting lessons will be given to the cast members. There will be only 11 rehearsals for this musical, all on Friday evenings and on Sunday afternoons into the early evening. It will then be presented in churches of all denominations throughout the five county area during the 2009 Lenten season on Friday evenings and Sundays. For more information, please call the director, Linda Wallace, at 412-741-3463 or [lindawallace@comcast.net](mailto:lindawallace@comcast.net).

**NOTE:** These auditions are for the musical Passion Play, "Why Must He Die?" which was presented in our parish of St. John of God during last year's Lenten season and will be presented again this coming Lenten season. Those who attended this past year can attest to this moving, inspiring, and soul searching drama on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

If you are a high school or college age student that would be interested in participating in this impressive ministry, it is highly recommended.



**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.

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**SANCTUARY CANDLE - WEEK OF DECEMBER 7**

**MOTHER OF SORROWS** - IN MEMORY OF MARY ALUISE BY ANNA MARIE AND BILL

**ST. MARY'S** - IN MEMORY OF CHARLES BUTTER BY FAMILY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Classes resume this Sunday, Dec. 7, for all students.

**HOW TO STAY SAFE THIS WINTER FOR SENIORS PRESENTED BY GATEWAY HOSPITCE**

Sheraden Senior Center  
720 Sherwood Avenue, West End, 15220  
Tuesday, December 9 at 10 AM

Learn how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe and warm this winter season.

- Basic "Stay Warm" Techniques
- Be Prepared for Cold Weather Emergencies
- Prepare Your Home for Winter
- Prepare Your Car for Winter & Ensure Safe Travel
- Careful!! Fall Prevention when Ice is Present
- How to Clear Snow Safely
- Fire Prevention - Keep your Home Safe
- Neighborhood Check - Watching Out For Each Other
- Hypothermia - Learn the Warning Signs
- Be Informed and Be Warm

For more information call the Sheraden Senior Center at 412-777-5012. RSVP to 412-536-2020. Light refreshments will be provided.

**PASTOR'S CORNER***Fr. Lou Vallone*

On Friday, December 12, I will mark my 3rd anniversary as Pastor of St. John of God and my 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

*continued next column . . .*

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 especially, please join me in praying for the grace and strength to continue to serve these parishes as well as you deserve.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**

All are invited to an Advent Bible Study on Thursday, Dec. 11, in Mother of Sorrows Chapel from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. For more information, please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

*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.*