



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
MASS INTENTIONS
Sat, Dec. 13 to Sun, Dec. 21, 2008

Saturday Vigil, Dec. 13 : 4:30 PM Church
 Antonetta Presutti (Family)

Sunday, Dec. 14: 7:30 AM Church
 Albert Frydlewicz & George and Margaret Cerovski (Wife & Daughter, Mary & Family)

Sunday, Dec. 14: 9:30 AM Chapel
 Dominic DiNardo (Wife & Children)

Sunday, Dec. 14: 11:30 AM Church
 Charles Butter (Family)

WEEKDAYS — 9:30 AM CHURCH

Monday, Dec. 15: *Parish Family of St. John of God*

Tuesday, Dec. 16: Harry Gasiorowski (Wife, Mildred & Family)

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 8:30 AM, Chapel: Agnes Fedio (St. John of God School Staff)

Wednesday, Dec. 17: Louis & Josephine Demmel (Son, Don Demmel)

Thursday, Dec. 18: John Vith (Francis & Eleanor Vith)

Friday, Dec. 19: Adam & Anna Maksin & Family (Margaret Roberts)

Saturday Vigil, Dec. 20: 4:30 PM Church
 In Thanksgiving to the Infant Jesus (Rosemarie Litterini)

Sunday, Dec. 21: 7:30 AM Church
Parish Family of St. John of God

Sunday, Dec. 21: 9:30 AM Chapel
 Anthony Cerrone (Family)

Sunday, Dec. 21: 11:30 AM Church
 Anniv - Melvin Mixter (Family)

Readings for the Week of December 14, 2008

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a-11/1Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



ANGEL TREE:
Reminder To Those Who Took An Angel

All gifts must be returned by this Sunday, December 14. If you forgot your gift, please bring it to the parish office on Monday, December 15.



FIRST PENANCE AND ADVENT COMMUNAL Penance SERVICE

Some of our young members will be celebrating the Sacrament of Penance for the first time **this Monday, Dec. 15**, at 6:30 PM in St. Mary's Church. This will take place during an **Advent Communal Penance 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.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

All parish volunteers who have contact with children (lectors, Eucharistic ministers, adult altar servers, sacristans, cantors, ushers, bingo workers, pizza kitchen workers, festival workers, and youth ministry volunteers) are reminded that they are required by the Diocese to have the following five items: Application in the Diocesan Database, State Criminal Record Check, Child Abuse History Clearance, Code of Pastoral Conduct, Protecting God's Children Workshop. If you are a member of any of these groups and have not yet completed the online application, please contact Steve Swank, SJG Safe Environment Coordinator, at 412-331-8573 x11 or sigyouthmin@yahoo.com (Sunday School teachers / volunteers should contact John Fatula and school volunteers should contact Sr. Anna Marie Gaglia.) THANK YOU for your tireless dedication to our parish and for helping to ensure that it is a safe environment for our children.

ATTENDANCE AT ST. JOHN OF GOD PARISH FOR THE WEEKEND OF DEC. 6 / 7

Saturday 275
Sunday 664
Total Weekend Attendance 939

Total Weekend Offertory \$ 5,610.00
Catholic Charities \$ 916.00
Parish Share Assessment 2009 \$??????
Parish Share Collected as of 12/1/08.....\$ 66.00
Remaining on 2009 Goal \$??????

We have not yet received our assessment for 2009, but all contributions to Parish Share as of Dec. 1 will be allocated to our assessment for 2009. Please continue to use your monthly envelopes at the same rate — it is a year round campaign for us. God bless your for your cooperation.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The Youth Group will deliver Christmas flowers to area nursing homes this Wednesday, December 17, after school. All teens in grades 9-12 are encouraged to take part in this wonderful service project. For details or to sign-up, contact Steve at 412-331-8573 x11 or sigyouthmin@yahoo.com.

ATTENTION: ALTAR SERVERS,
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS

Sign-up sheets are in the Sacristy at St. Mary's and Mother of Sorrows for those ministers who are available to serve one of the Christmas Masses. Please sign-up soon so we know who will be there.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Dec. 15 (Mon.) - Mass at Chartiers Manor Nursing Home, 814 Chartiers Ave., 1:30 PM.

Dec. 15 (Mon.) - First Penance and Advent Communal Penance Service, 6:30 PM, St. Mary's Church

Dec. 15 (Mon.) - The Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers will be prayed privately.

Dec. 16 (Tues.) - St. Anthony Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's Church.

Dec. 17 (Wed.) - **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO!** - MOS Social Hall - Doors open at 5 PM, Early Birds 7 PM, Reg. Games begin at 7:15 PM.

Dec. 17 (Wed.) - Cub Scout Meeting, 6-7:30 PM in the Gathering Place.

Dec. 19 (Fri.) - Mother of Sorrows Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's Church.

Dec. 19 (Fri.) - PIZZA KITCHEN Closed.

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.

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.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: TUESDAY NOON

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

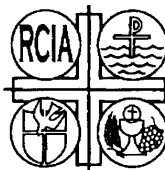
9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM (MONDAY THRU FRIDAY)

ST. JOHN OF GOD SCHOOL NEWS

- All are invited and welcome to the School Liturgy this Wednesday, December 17, at 8:30 AM in the Chapel at Mother of Sorrows.
- Next Market Day orders are due by January 9, 2009. Pick-up will be January 13th.
- The next home basketball game will be on Thursday, January 8. The Junior Varsity game begins at 6 PM - Varsity begins at 7:15 PM.

R.C.I.A. NEWS

Our sincere congratulations and a very warm welcome to our new catechumens, *Keith Dix, Wendi Slusser, Dale Warner, Jane Warner*, and to our candidates, *Cathleen Kilonsky, Renee Namisnak, Cynthia Sheets, and Stacie Woods*. Let us keep our catechumens and candidates in our prayers, and may God's loving guidance be upon them as they continue their journey to full initiation into the Catholic Church.



HOSPITAL

Please pray for all parishioners who are in the hospital, especially: **Alleg. Gen.** - Marie Kresak **West Hills Health & Rehab** - John Hanobik **Sycamore Creek** - Liz Cinkovich *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 John Sibenik and Patricia Zane 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."*

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to an Advent Bible Study this Wednesday, Dec. 17, in Mother of Sorrows Chapel from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. For more information, please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

SANCTUARY CANDLE - WEEK OF DECEMBER 14

MOTHER OF SORROWS - IN MEMORY OF ROBERT TANKOSH BY WIFE, CAROLYN

ST. MARY'S - IN MEMORY OF GERARD AND MARGARET WEISSER BY AL, DONNA, DOMINIC, AND MARIA



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.

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.

THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

On behalf of Catholic Charities and those served, Susan Rauscher, Executive Director, extends deepest gratitude to everyone who donated to Catholic Charities during the unprecedented second collection held in all Churches of the Diocese last weekend. Because of your generosity, Catholic Charities is now in a better position to help our neighbors in need who are challenged by the current state of the economy. Together, we are joy to their world, the joy that comes from answering the Christian call to serve from our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thanks again!

FLOWER DELIVERY TIME

Those parishioners who, so kindly, signed up to deliver Christmas flowers to shut-ins can pick them up this 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve:

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

4:30 P.M., Church @ St. Mary's

(The 4:30 P.M. Liturgy will be the traditional children and family celebration. Small gifts to be shared with the needy children of the neighborhood may be bought to the altar when the children gather for the homily)

Midnight, Church @ St. Mary's

Christmas Day:

Thursday, December 25, 2008

9:30 A.M., Chapel @ Mother of Sorrows

9:00 A.M. Christmas Choir Recital
followed by 9:30 A.M. Mass

11:30 A.M., Church @ St. Mary's



CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

Bingo: There will be no Bingo on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 31. There is Bingo this Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Parish Office: The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 24, Thursday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Dec. 26.

Pizza Kitchen: The Pizza Kitchen will be closed on Friday, Dec. 19, 26, and Jan. 2, 2009.

Sunday School: There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 28 and Jan. 4. Classes will resume for all students on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009.



COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A second collection will be taken at all Masses celebrated for Christmas for the benefit of Children and Youth. All proceeds from this collection will be credited towards our Parish Share Assessment. Since we have met our Parish Share goal for 2008, this money will stay in the parish and not be assessed by the Diocese.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The McKees Rocks Historical Society will hold a Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM at the Chartiers Country Club and a Christmas Concert by the ICTUS Community Choir (Ingram Crafton Thornburg United In Song) including a Chinese Raffle and Money Tree. All are welcome to attend. Please call Vicki at 412-771-4266 for more information.

OLSH HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following students who have made the Honor Roll at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School for the first nine-weeks and are members of St. John of God Parish:

Honors: *Thomas Dombrowski, Briana Farley, Marissa Patton, Jillian Young*

High Honors: *Danielle Chorba, Brandon Duerr, Megan Gallagher, Jared Hall, Sara Jakicic, Jacqueline Weisser*

15TH ANNUAL SLOVAK VILIIJA

Prince of Peace Parish, South Side, will host the 15th Annual Slovak *Vilija* on Saturday, Dec. 20. The *Vilija* is a re-creation of a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner, featuring authentic homemade Slovak delicacies and authentic folk entertainment sure to warm your spirit. The meatless meal features baked fish, mushroom soup, pirohy, nut and poppy seed rolls and so much more—all homemade by parish volunteers! The evening's highlight is the performance of the *Pittsburgh Slovaks* re-enacting the visit of the shepherds to the Christ Child, entirely in Slovak songs, verse and dance. Tickets are available by reservation only: \$17 for adults and \$9 for children under 16. Call the Prince of Peace Parish Center, 412-481-8380, for info.

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

A THANKSGIVING THANK YOU FROM SR. THERESA

At times in our lives, it is important to take time to reflect on how God has graced us. I know that this is a busy time of year for you as families and, yet, so many of you have contributed to making this Thanksgiving one of HOPE and JOY for so many in our parish. Through your generous contributions to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Ladies of Charity, and to the Parish of St. John of God, many of our families have been served. I want to thank the F.O.R. Center who have helped us once again this year. Also, thank you to St. John of God School students who decorated the thanksgiving boxes which were used to pack food, and a special thank you to the first graders for making favors for Meals on Wheels. Since this is a time to give "thanks" we would like to thank the Knights of Columbus, Council 875, Crafton for the food certificates which will help us at Christmas as well as this Thanksgiving. Also, for all those who helped in any way at the Free Thanksgiving Dinner held at the American Legion, Post 618 (serving, donation of turkeys, transportation, monetary, etc.), thank you. Your thoughtful generosity is very much appreciated. As you can see, this Thanksgiving was indeed a gift from and for the entire parish.

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.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

A parent is meant to be a "witness to the light." To be effective, light must be in front of our children, not behind them. A parent must lead, not follow to "make straight the path of the Lord" for their children.

PASTOR'S CORNER
Fr. Lou Vallone

Whenever I watch an NFL football game, I am impressed with the wide receivers. Most of them are approximately the same size as I am: between 5' 9" and 5' 11"; between 175 and 195 pounds. I play racquetball and, on occasion, I will overzealously crash into a wall going after a serve, or fall to the floor in an attempt to return a shot, or slam into my opponent jockeying for position. When this happens, I usually am not hurt badly, but bruises do develop. I may limp a bit and I definitely am a little sore for a few days. Very often, I will then take it easy for a while, not play ball or lay off of physical endeavor until I feel healed.

These wide receivers that I watch get bumped, tackled, run over, slammed down, crashed into and knocked around like a pinball, not occasionally, but dozens of times every game, many games a season. After each collision, they jump up, run back to the huddle, and do it all over again, week after week after week. While I baby myself after the rare minor mishap, these guys of the same size keeping pounding away at it as a matter of course.

Granting that they are younger than I (much); in better condition (much); have more native athletic ability and practice (much); and are better paid (very much!), still I think there must be another dimension that allows them to bear down and continue to function effectively under so much pain and abuse, that allows them to go on long after I would have given up.

As an athlete, I am an amateur - in the original definition of the word, i.e., one who does something just for the love of it. These others are professionals, meaning not only that they are paid,

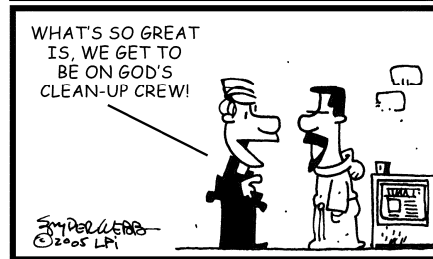
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but that they are committed - professed - in their field.

As human beings, we all have to experience some degree of pain and hurt and negativity in life, justly and unjustly. Consequently, we all need an ability to bear with it, bounce back from it, and continue on in positive and hopeful living, no matter what. But some seem to fold quickly or withdraw overly deep and long from lesser setbacks. As Christians, we are all meant to have a love of our calling, to be "amateurs" in one sense. But we are not meant to pick and choose what we like about the Good News (the Gospel), and feel free to reject or ignore what parts of Christ's challenge do not appeal to us. If we "profess" to be Christians, we must be committed to the whole of the Gospel, including parts that deal with suffering and pain in joyful hope of the coming Kingdom.

We are into the Advent Season. It is the perfect time to work on becoming professional Christians in the finest sense. And remember: it ain't Christmas until it's Christmas!

3RD 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.