

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT****MASS INTENTIONS****Sat, Dec. 20 to Sun, Dec. 28, 2008**

- 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)

WEEKDAYS — 9:30 AM CHURCH

- Monday, Dec. 22:** Julia Lyscik (Mr. & Mrs. John Coppler)
- Tuesday, Dec. 23:** Aldo DiGiulio (Wife, Amy & Family)
- Wednesday, Dec. 24:** Helen Haas (Edward Fedorka)

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE****Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24****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

(All Masses celebrated for Christmas will be offered for the Parish Family of Saint John of God.)

**Friday, Dec. 26:** Nameer Hanna

- Saturday Vigil, Dec. 27:** 4:30 PM Church
Andrew & Mary Litterini (Family)
- Sunday, Dec. 28:** 7:30 AM Church
Gregory Onyszko (Onyszko Family)
- Sunday, Dec. 28:** 9:30 AM Chapel
Gus Faramelli and the Bumbaca Family (Ida)
- Sunday, Dec. 28:** 11:30 AM Church
Parish Family of St. John of God

PLEASE NOTE:

**THE BULLETIN DEADLINE
THIS WEEK IS MONDAY, DEC. 22**

CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM

The annual Christmas program of Carols and Anthems will be sung by the St. John of God Adult Choir on Christmas Eve beginning at 11:30 PM, with Mass beginning at Midnight. The program will feature "Silent Night" sung in the ethnic heritage languages of St. John of God Parish.

A program of Carols and Anthems will be sung by the St. John of God Adult Choir and Cantors on December 25, Christmas Day, at the Mother of Sorrows Chapel. The program will begin at 9 A.M. with Mass beginning at 9:30 AM

A program of Carols and Anthems will be sung by the St. John of God Adult Choir on Sunday, December 28, before the 11:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's Church.

The St. John of God Adult Choir program will be sung on Saturday, January 3, at 4 P.M. in St. Mary's Church with the Epiphany Mass beginning at 4:30.

CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

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

Parish Office: The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 24, Thursday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Dec. 26. Please hold all calls until Monday, Dec. 29, unless it is an emergency.

Pizza Kitchen: The Pizza Kitchen will be closed on Friday, Dec. 19, 26, Jan. 2, and 9. We'll be back in operation on Friday, Jan. 16, 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 longstanding tradition in the Diocese of Pittsburgh is the Christmas 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. The 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 2008, this money will stay in the parish and not be assessed by the Diocese.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Teens in grades 9-12 are invited to spend the day at Seven Springs Mountain Resort on Monday, Jan. 19 (NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day). There are a variety of activities including snow tubing, skiing, snow boarding, and more! For more info, contact Steve at 412-331-8573 or sigyouthmin@yahoo.com

SILVER RING THING



Teens in grades 9-12 are invited to the Silver Ring Thing Mythbuster Tour on Friday, Jan. 16, from 6:30 to 9 PM at Seton-LaSalle High School. SRT is about guys, girls, dating, love, second chances, and the best choices. Tickets are only \$5 each if you register by Jan. 7, \$8 each after that. To register, contact Steve Swank at 412-331-8573 or sigyouthmin@yahoo.com.

**ATTENDANCE AT ST. JOHN OF GOD PARISH
FOR THE WEEKEND OF DEC. 13 / 14**

Saturday 332
Sunday 709
Total Weekend Attendance1,041

Total Weekend Offertory \$ 6,801.45
Parish Share Assessment 2009 \$??????
Parish Share Collected as of 12/1/08.....\$ 6,518.88
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.

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.

SANCTUARY CANDLE - WEEK OF DECEMBER 21

MOTHER OF SORROWS - IN MEMORY OF ANDREW R. MARTONIK BY WIFE, ROSE AND FAMILY

ST. MARY'S - IN MEMORY OF STELLA ROSENWALD BY CHILDREN

ST. JOHN OF GOD SCHOOL NEWS

CHRISTMAS VACATION

The students and staff of St. John of God School will be on Christmas vacation beginning on Wednesday, Dec. 23, with 1/2 day for students. Classes will resume on Monday, Jan. 5, 2009.

HOSPITAL

Please pray for all parishioners who are in the hospital, especially: **Alleg. Gen.** - Marie Kresak **Mercy** - Bill Stropkaj Sr., Joanne Dressler **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 Florence Tunitis and Crescenzo DiLisio 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."*

THE WEEK AHEAD

Dec. 22 (Mon.) - Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers recited in St. Mary's Church - Rosary begins 6:30 PM..

Dec. 23 (Tues.) - St. Anthony Novena Prayers recited immediately following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's Church.

Dec. 17 (Wed.) - **NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO!**

Dec. 17 (Wed.) - No Cub Scout Meeting

Dec. 26 (Fri.) - Mother of Sorrows Novena Prayers recited immediately following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's Church.

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.

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WEEKEND RETREAT

How do you consider your personal relationship with God? As with any relationship in life, one must also work at their relationship with God. An effective method to personally become closer to our loving God is through a weekend retreat. For me, a weekend retreat carries me back to an age of innocence. It is an experience that I gladly welcome and now look forward to renewing. In this age of "not enough time to accomplish anything," this weekend is a tool to slow down and evaluate what is of importance in my life. Of course for every individual, their personal experiences will differ on what they gain from a retreat. Please consider attending the retreat and reconnecting with God.

A Men's Retreat for St. John of God and St. Catherine of Siena Parishes is planned for Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, 2009 at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery on the hill tops of the South Side of Pittsburgh.

For a brochure or for more information, please call Bob Bittner at 724-378-0903 or Jim Barcaskey at 724-457-7764.

BAPTISMAL PROGRAM FOR NEW AND EXPECTING PARENTS



The next Baptismal program for new and expecting parents will be held on Sunday, Jan. 11, from 1 to 4 PM at Mother of Sorrows Chapel. For more information or to register, please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

Readings for the Week of December 21, 2008

<i>Sunday:</i>	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38
<i>Monday:</i>	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
<i>Tuesday:</i>	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
<i>Wednesday:</i>	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
<i>Christmas Eve:</i>	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1- 25 or 1:18-25
<i>Thursday:</i>	Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
<i>Christmas Day:</i>	Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1- 5, 9-14
<i>Friday:</i>	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
<i>Saturday:</i>	1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
<i>Next Sunday:</i>	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17- 19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



Mary
Mother
of
God

MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Thursday, January 1, 2009 is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God and a Holy Day of Obligation. Following is the Mass schedule for this day in St. John of God Parish.

Wednesday Vigil, December 31, 2008
4:30 PM, Church @ St. Mary's
6:30 PM, Chapel @ Mother of Sorrows

Thursday Holy Day, January 1, 2009
9:30 AM, Church @ St. Mary's

EFFICIENCY APARTMENTS FOR THE ELDERLY

(Applicants 62 years or older)

Leo Meyer Manor

1015 Church Avenue 15136

ALSO AVAILABLE / OPTIONAL

3 Meals Per Day

Laundry and Housekeeping

Rental assistance available under HUD guidelines

Equal Housing Opportunity

Information: Sr. Barbara Marie, 412-331-8000

BISHOP CANEVIN HIGH SCHOOL COMEDY NIGHT 4: THE SR. JUDY ROAST

Bishop Canevin High School will present Comedy Night 4 on Monday, December 29, in O'Connor Hall at St. Paul Seminary in Crafton (2900 Noblestown Road), 7:30 PM. This year's show will feature a special format: a Roast of Sr. Judy Worden, RSM. Sr. Judy is the long time academic Vice Principal at Bishop Canevin. She has also served for nearly four decades as the school's Spring Musical and Crusettes Dance Team moderator. National headline comedian Jesse Joyce, a 1996 graduate of Bishop Canevin High School, will serve as the Roast Master. Jesse will be joined by a panel of Roasters: Bob Pompeani of KDKA-TV, past Comedy Night comedians Tim Dimond '04, Darrin Hall '97 and Justin Janosko '98. Bishop Canevin teacher/Football Coach/Athletic Director Bob Jacoby and former Headmaster John Maurer.



Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for all area high school students. Complete information about the event is available at <http://comedy.bishopcanevin.org>. Tickets can be purchased online at that website, by calling 412-922-7400 ext 20 or email jakielod@bishopcanevin.org.

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR POST-ABORTION HEALING

Rachel's Vineyard, a weekend retreat designed to heal the emotional and spiritual wounds of abortion, will be held Feb. 6-8, 2009 at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. In a confidential and supportive atmosphere, Rachel's Vineyard demonstrates God's love, forgiveness, and compassion to women and men struggling with abortion's aftermath. Financial aid is available. Sponsored by Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Pittsburgh. To register or for more information, call Ann Depner or Karen LaFrance at 412-456-6999, or go online to www.ccpgh.org and click on Rachel's Vineyard. Registration deadline is 1/30/09.

FAITH & FOOD: A BOOK DISCUSSION

St. Joseph Spirituality Center in Baden, PA, will present **Food & Faith: A Book Discussion** led by Sister Lyn Szymkiewicz. The book, **Food & Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread**, is a "resource that examines food choices through the lens of faith. In bite-size pieces, you'll learn to recognize and celebrate food as sacramental, consider implications of food choices and find help to embody love and compassion in the wider world." Sessions will be held on the Mondays of January (January 5, 12, 19 and 26) from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Fee is \$6.00 per session or \$20.00 for all four evenings. To register or for more information, please call Sister Marian Mills at 724-869-2151 ext. 6609.

SUNDAY EVENING HOLY HOURS

Every Sunday evening the seminarians pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel of St. Paul Seminary. Inquirers who are interested in the priesthood are always invited to join the seminary community in prayer. Please call the seminary office to confirm your attendance (412-456-3048).

SEMINARY CLASSES

Fr. James Wehner, rector of the seminary, teaches an introductory theology class to the seminarians on Monday evenings from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Those interested in sitting in on a class to not only learn more about the Catholic Faith but also to meet the seminarians are invited to participate. For more information, please call the seminary office at 412-456-3048.

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 9, 2009, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434. More information is available at www.helpourmarriage.com.

FROM THE MISSION OFFICE



The Mission Office of the Diocese of Pittsburgh sends a heartfelt thank you to St. John of God parishioners for the generous contribution of \$2,117.61 to the Missionary Cooperation Plan. This gift will help the missionary who made the appeal in our parish to pass on the message of Christ to those who have not heard it or still do not understand it, and to serve the poor as Jesus has instructed us. May God bless you.

"RING OUT OUR JOY" CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 PM

St. Malachy Church
343 Forest Grove Road
Kennedy Township
412-771-5483

Hand Bell Ensemble Brass Ensemble
Flute Ensemble

Piano and Vocal by extremely talented teens joined
by the St. Malachy Adult Choir

ALL ARE WELCOME.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

Today's Gospel sounds like a fairy tale story, which is too good to be true. But it is true. While it is about the birth of Jesus, it is also about the faith of a young teenager, Mary, and Joseph's courage, respect and affection for Mary. When faith, courage, respect and affection live in a family, "God is with you!"

PASTOR'S CORNER
Fr. Lou Vallone

A Town Hall Meeting was held, as is our custom, following the Mass on the Immaculate Conception. It is also customary for me to report to the parish the minutes of such meetings. However, the only reason I had scheduled the meeting is "because we've always done it that way." That is to say, I had no real agenda, there was no pressing business to discuss. But I announced that we would hold one anyway. Much to my surprise, more than sixty people did in fact stay on after Mass. With no real agenda, I just answered general questions and we engaged in informal discussion about the state of the parish and school. It was very relaxed, quite an enjoyable experience, at least for me. Too often we become goal oriented, feel the pressure of accomplishment, and it was very refreshing just to casually "shoot the breeze" with the parishioners who were present. I am very grateful that the people of St. John of God are so interested and active and take such personal ownership of their parish that they would spend the time just to talk about things with their pastor. But it left me without a Pastor's Corner to write, since there is no real report to give.

As an alternative, I had been developing an idea about a Pastor's Corner that came to me when I was viewing a DVD of my most recent SCUBA trip. I had of course experienced the dive in person, and then watched the reproduction in real time on the DVD. But then I began to play with the remote, and was struck by what one can do with the technology—pause, fast forward, reverse, etc.—and I thought of using that as an allegory for life in general, and Advent in particular. But as I read the

continued next column . .

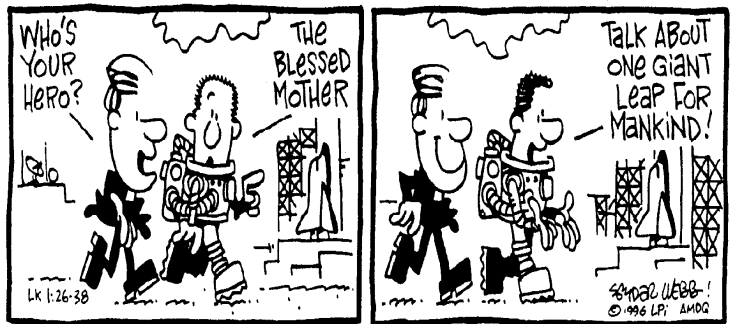
morning paper, in the magazine section, I found that a journalist had shamelessly stolen my idea and wrote about that very topic. What is worse, she did a better job of it than I could have. (I guess that is why she is a professional writer and I am a simple parish priest.) I didn't want to look bad in comparison, so I abandoned that idea. (At least until a later time when everyone forgets her article and will then think that I am bright and creative!)

I then thought I would write about Christmas holiday Thursday – a sort of "last chance" to do Advent right, penitential to the last minute, John the Baptist kind of thing. But since we have to decorate the Church immediately following the last Mass today for practical reasons, it seemed that I would be a bit hypocritical. And you are tired of me beating that particular drum this year by now.

Three ideas, three misses—in any league, three strikes and you are out. So I guess there won't be any Pastor's Corner this week.

Have a Merry Christmas, and know that all your priests will be offering all their Masses on that feast for your intentions – our gift to you.

4th 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.