



Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and on Thursday, we will celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is a feast of great joy as we remember that our Savior was born for us over two thousand years ago. Our God has been with us for two thousand years in a way that He never was before; He became one of us. That is a very staggering thought if we compare two thousand years to all the years since God created the world.

God chose to become one of us in all things except sin. He shares our human existence and, by doing so, has exulted our human nature and lifted us up to share intimately in His own life. This is the real gift of Christmas; the gift of God Himself given to all of us because He loves us so much.

The gifts we give to others at Christmastime are a reflection of God's gift to us. We do not give a gift because someone deserves it, but because we wish to express our love. God's gift of love and salvation are not given to us because we deserve it, but because He loves us more than we can imagine.

What gift can we give to God? We can give God the gift of ourselves by following Jesus in the way we live our daily lives. Living by the Word of God, even though sometimes we fail, is always the best gift we can give to God.

The real joy of Christmas is in remembering that God came to us. He came to us as one like us. Too many people make too much of the commercialism that Christmas has become for our society. As followers of Jesus, we must be the ones who remind the world what this season really celebrates. This is no easy task for any of us, but if we truly believe that God is with us, then this is the message that must be shouted for all to hear and remember.

As we celebrate the 12 days of Christmas beginning on Thursday, let's make sure that we keep Christ in our hearts and in all we do. Let this Christmas draw us closer to the Lord and to one another.

If you have not made your confession to prepare for Christmas, please note that there are confessions Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Check the bulletin for times.

As you shop for those last minute gifts for family and friends, please don't forget your gift to your parish community. Your gift is your way of thanking God for His many gifts, especially His gift of Himself in the person of Jesus Christ. All that we have comes from God's loving and generous hand, so it is good and right that we give a portion of those blessings back to God so that the work of the Church can continue to flourish. We count on your generosity at this time of the year so that our parish can continue the good work begun by our mothers and fathers in faith.

Allow me to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy and Holy Christmas Season. I pray that you and your loved ones will be filled with the spirit of Jesus Christ during this time and throughout the New Year. In prayer and worship of our Savior may His peace and joy always be in your hearts. May the Lord Jesus strengthen you in every way as you strive to follow Him all the days of your life. Always remember that the Lord is near; He is always with us for He is Emmanuel.



Many of you may know that I am making a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, leaving the day after Christmas. If you have any prayer requests for me to take, please drop them off at the Parish Office or in the collection basket before Christmas.

Please pray for all the pilgrims and me so that we may have a safe and prayerful journey.



# Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 20, Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent**  
 5:00 p.m. .... James Jackson [Bob & Carol Lechowicz]

**Sunday, December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Philip & Emma Wahl [Bob Smith Family]  
 9:30 a.m. .... For Our Parish  
 11:30 a.m. .... Thanksgiving [Rodrigo Family]

**Monday, December 22**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Anna Banfield [Mary Phillips]

**Tuesday, December 23, St. John of Kanty**  
 8:00 a.m. .... James Durkin [Adam & Erica Olis]

**Wednesday, December 24, Vigil of Christmas**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Communion Service  
 4:00 p.m. .... Owen Steinkerchner [Family & Friends]  
 6:30 p.m. .... Anna Britt [Ruth & Richard Kislin]  
 Midnight .... Albert & Veronica Zent [Carretta Family]

**Thursday, December 25, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Carmella Puglisi [Family]  
 10:00 a.m. .... Donald Brown [Elizabeth Brown]

**Friday, December 26, St. Stephen**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Irene Moteko [Children]  
 5:30 p.m. .... Williams/Rohrer Wedding Rehearsal

**Saturday, December 27, St. John the Apostle**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Communion Service  
 1:30 p.m. .... Williams/Rohrer Wedding  
 5:00 p.m. .... Will Fisher [Leona Slovkovsky]

**Sunday, December 28, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Erica Olis [Violet Plummer]  
 9:30 a.m. .... Anthony DiMaggio [June Linson]  
 11:30 a.m. .... For Our Parish

### Readings for the Week of December 21

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56  
 Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66  
 Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;  
 Lk 1:67-69  
 Thursday: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25;  
 Mt 1:1-25  
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14;  
 Lk 2:1-14  
 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  
 Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:2-8  
 Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:12,  
 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt into her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out in a loud voice: "Blest are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb." Lk 1: 41-42



## Wedding Banns

I, II, & III MICHELLE WILLIAMS,  
 Sacred Heart &  
 MARK ROHRER

### WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT -- DECEMBER 14 [\$5% of our collection was given to the Intravel Brotherhood Home].

Offertory.....	\$13,461.00
Support Our School .....	\$744.00
Debt Reduction.....	\$571.00
Christmas Decorations.....	\$158.00
Religious Retirement .....	\$2,534.00
Christmas.....	\$650.00
New Years Day.....	\$15.00
Peter's Pence .....	\$10.00
Immaculate Conception .....	\$1,617.00
Number of envelopes used:.....	405

### CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME *Catholics Returning*



*Home for Christmas* is a program to invite non-practicing Catholics back to the Church. Please ask friends and relatives back home. Classes start January 8, 2004. Please call 330-472-2848.

**A RIGHT TO LIFE SIGNATURE AD** will run January 22 in the Beacon Journal. Volunteers will be here January 11 to collect Signatures. More to follow!

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**-Thank you to all who have responded to filling the needed times in our chapel. We are still in need of adorers for the following times:

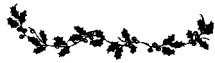
- Thursday-1:00 a.m.
- Friday-11:00 p.m.
- Sunday-4:00 a.m.

*The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed at 8:00 a.m., Christmas Eve, and exposed at 11:00 a.m., Christmas Day. You MUST keep your Holy Hour, or find a sub.*

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



Lord our God, we light this candle to remember the birth of Your Son. Through the night hours of the darkened earth, we, your people, watch for the coming of Your promised Son. As we wait, give us a foretaste of the joy that You will grant us when the fullness of His glory has filled the earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.



# LITURGICAL + ROLES

## MASS SERVERS SCHEDULE

### Week of December 22

- 8:00 a.m. - **Monday - Wednesday**  
 - Anthony Arnone, Maria Arnone  
 - Emilee Krunich, Josh Looser
- 8:00 a.m. - **Friday - Saturday**  
 - Adam Petersen, Nick Petersen  
 - Sarah Masciak, Michael Harbaugh

### Saturday, December 27

- 5:00 p.m. - A.J. Hanna, Tre Palecek  
 - Bob Ruedlinger, Bryant Buzzelli

### Sunday, December 28

- 8:00 a.m. - Michel Carps, Timothy Reed  
 - Samuel Yetzer, Marla Iverson
- 9:30 a.m. - Christopher Hall, Caitlin Davies  
 - Jacqui Flaherty, Nick Flanigan
- 11:30 a.m. - Rachel Figliomeni, Ben Goddard  
 - Zachary Goodson, Vincent Grezanik

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

### Saturday, December 27

- 5:00 p.m. - Chris Bott, Sr. Therese Marie  
 - Todd Zeiger, Chuck & Vera McEvoy

### Sunday, December 28

- 8:00 a.m. - Dennis Busson, Bill Walchli  
 - Mel & Ruth Wagner, Ken Hampton
- 9:30 a.m. - Joe McNeill, Zen Porchowsky  
 - Chuck & Janet Parsons, Ryan McNeill
- 11:30 a.m. - Bobbe Evans, Jan Finneran, Don Drouhard  
 - Beth Sobnosky, Lane Edwards

- Cup Ministers* - Lou & Joan Perry, Elaine Daigle  
 - Tony & Diane Agnesi, Betty Ruppel

- Alercare** - Wrights  
**Liberty Residence** - Wagners  
**Magnolia** - Hammerlys  
**Sterling Oaks** - Clarks

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

### Saturday, December 27

- 5:00 p.m. - Sue Bielawski, Ann Nemeth

### Sunday, December 28

- 8:00 a.m. - Jack Brumbaugh, Jean Segal  
 9:30 a.m. - Cosmo Zimbardi, Madeline Campobenedetto  
 11:30 a.m. - Lane Edwards, Alice Henry



## Christmas Blessings



## MASS SERVERS SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, December 24-Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. - Miranda Boland, Ginny Gegick  
 - Anthony Arnone, Maria Arnone
- 6:30 p.m. - Dylan Simon, Frankie Simon  
 - Tre Palecek, Sabina Pfeiffer
- Midnight - Nick Petersen, Steven Sponsler  
 - Mike Adams, Maria Adams

### Thursday, December 25-CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8:00 a.m. - Corey Semrau, Sean Semrau  
 - Eddie Uhl, Will Uhl
- 10:00 a.m. - Dianna Stafford

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, December 24-Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. - Phil Gerace, David Smith Sr., Joe Weber  
 - Madonna DiPietro, Gerry Wright
- 6:30 p.m. - Joanne & Mike Gahan, Bob Cotey  
 - Donna Sponsler, Josh Watson
- Midnight - Maribeth Haller, Marilyn Weishaar  
 - Elaine Daigle, Deb Mlazovsky, Bill Adams

### Thursday, December 25-CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8:00 a.m. - Lou & Joan Perry  
 - Dave & Fran Hammerly
- 10:00 a.m. - Frank Collins, Veronica O'Donnell  
 - Jan & Lowell Knight, Bill Schapel

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. - Madeline Campo, Clara Lou Serbin  
 6:30 p.m. - David & Michelle Muzilla  
 Midnight - Gwen Kraeff, Nancy Houck

### Thursday, December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8:00 a.m. - Char Kasner, Dick Ravetta  
 10:00 a.m. - Dave Kennedy, Tom Hegarty

*"And, it came to pass,  
a child was born".....*





**PARISH HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**-The office will be open December 24 until Noon however, we will be closed December 25 & 26.

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE DEADLINE** is as follows, and must be submitted by:

- January 4 bulletin—December 23

**THANK YOU!!**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

- Blood Pressure Screening after 8 & 9:30 a.m. Masses  
10:25 a.m. - High School PSR  
4:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Court of Honor, McMahon Hall

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 22**

- 3:00 p.m. - Confessions until 4:00 p.m.  
3:30 p.m. - **NO** Jr. Praesidium, Andes Room  
7:00 p.m. - Confessions until 8:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23**

- 11:00 a.m. - Confessions until Noon, church

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

- 10:00 a.m. - Confessions until 11:00 a.m., church

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26**

- 5:30 p.m. - Wedding Rehearsal, church

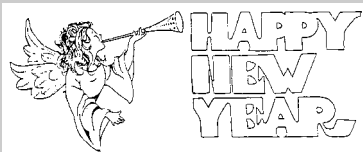
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27**

- 11:00 a.m. - Confessions until Noon, church  
1:30 p.m. - Williams/Rohrer Wedding  
3:30 p.m. - Confessions until 4:30 p.m., church



**DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS** will take place on Monday evening, at 7:00 p.m., December 22. Please join us!

**HELP THE SACRED HEART BUILDING FUND** by purchasing a cell phone. Parishioner, Jack Yard, will donate \$10 for each new Verizon Wireless Activation or end of contract renewal done by Jack by 1/23/04. Please call 330-472-9379, and refer to add on the back of bulletin.



### SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

Come celebrate the incoming New Year with your parish family!

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
**10:15-11:15 p.m. Holy Hour**  
**11:15 p.m. Mass**

**RECEPTION FOLLOWING MASS**  
McMahon Hall  
*LIGHT FARE WITH CHAMPAGNE*  
*Freewill Offering*

**RSVP**  
Parish Office, 336-3049 or Palecek's, 334-1916

**TRAVELING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?** You may dial **410-676-6000** to find the nearest Catholic church [with normal toll charges]. The service is also available free on the internet, [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org).



**HEALING SERVICE**-Join Our Lady of Grace Healing Ministry, Hinckley, on January 7, at 7:30 p.m., for a Healing Service. There will be a short prayer service, individual prayer Healing Teams, and time for private reflection. For more information, call the office at 330-278-4121.

**THE FIRST FRIDAY CLUB LUNCHEON SPEAKER** for January 9 is Fr. Michael G. Woost, S.T.L. Please call 535-7668 for information and tickets.

**THE YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be at Fr. Joe's house on Sunday, January 4, from 6:30 til Fr. Joe kicks us out!. Come hungry! Food will be provided. Please bring a donation of a baby item for the Community Pregnancy Center. Friends are welcome. See you there!

