

Mass Intentions**Saturday, November 28– Weekday**

5:00 P.M. - Tom Mahr (Catherine & Kevin Baldauf)

Sunday, November 29– First Sunday in Advent

7:30 A.M. - Charles & Elizabeth Prisello
(Geraldine Prisello)

9:00 A.M. - Adeline D'Amato
(George & Linda Straka)

10:30 A.M. - Cecilia Szweczyk
(Rosemary, Marlene, Shirley & Kathy)
- People of the Parish

12:00 Noon - Carol Levis (Marlys Regina)

Monday, November 30– Advent Weekday

8:00 A.M. - Joseph Brizek (Prayer Shawl Ministry)

3:00 P.M. - Mt. Vernon: Henry Godlewski
(Family)

Tuesday, December 1– Advent Weekday

8:00 A.M. - Raymond Shine Jr. & Sr., Charles Shine
(Family)

Wednesday, December 2– Advent Weekday

8:00 A.M. - Michelina Baiano (Husband)

Thursday, December 3– Francis Xavier

8:00 A.M. - Daniel Bradley
(Rose, Mike, Sean Bradley)

Friday, December 4- John Damascus

8:00 A.M. - Tom Mahr (Mary Ann Scott)

Saturday, December 5- Advent Weekday

5:00 P.M. - Louis & Jeff Franco (Violet Franco)

Sunday, December 6- Second Sunday in Ordinary**Time (Saint Nicholas)**

7:30 A.M. - Charles Holl (M/M Guy Mattola)

9:00 A.M. - Robert George & Robert James Kramer
(Wife & Mother)

10:30 A.M. - William Jurgevich
(Wife, Betty & Family)

- People of the Parish
12:00 Noon - Deceased Members of the Piciucco
Family (Flo & Elisa Doyle)

Sanctuary Lamp will burn for one week for the Blessed

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick:

Rosemarie Jabo, Jeannie Obidzinski, Marnie Rennie, Louise Hillman, Emily Herring, Michael Pro, Paul Pro, Rich & Marie Fix, Cathy Villella, Judy Zabkar, Dottie Kennedy, Bob Bittner, Anna Pierce, Jericho Fedor, Pat Rae, Al Furno, Ed Stetar, Ian Roberts, Carl Humphreys, Frank Mathews, Camryn Surman, Chuck Vasco, Aileen Spamer, Donna Helbley, Patricia Rice and Ethan Loney. Help, save, pity and defend your servants O God by your grace!

Reminder: All volunteers, the deadline of December 31, is quickly approaching. Any applications that are not complete will be removed from the data base, and you will no longer be able to volunteer. Any questions, please contact the Rectory during business hours.

From the Pastor's Desk

We begin the holy season of Advent today, preparing to commemorate Christ's first coming in order to be prepared for his second coming!.... Come, Lord Jesus is our Advent Prayer....this is also the "Year of the Priest" and you may see photos of all the priests of the Diocese in the atrium, see if you know anyone!....the parish provided on-site instruction for twenty-five parishioners to obtain the Food Service Safe Certification....this Sunday we welcome Carol Hooney, Karen Harkins, Michelle Newby, Bob Bradley and Luke Veverka into the RCIA through the Rite of Acceptance....St. Nicholas will be visiting at 10:30AM Mass next Sunday.... The School's Boosters Club is in need of someone to work the certificate table for Saturday 5PM Mass, please call the school if you are willing to help....ALSO PLEASE HELP the SCHOOL by participating in the 50/50 raffle on sale at the certificate table....

Father Pribonic

Second collection today is for the Saint Vincent DePaul Society.

Tuesday, December 8, Feast of the Immaculate

Conception of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses: Monday at 7PM, Tuesday at 9:00AM and 7PM.

Altar Flowers - To purchase a poinsettia "In Memory of our Loved Ones," please use the Christmas Flower Offering Envelope enclosed in your December packet of envelopes. Cost is a minimum of \$10. **Deadline for ordering is MONDAY, December 14, and please Print.** Loved ones will be remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season. Names will be published in the December 20th bulletin.

Christmas Oplatki available at the Rectory \$3.00 per package.

Class for Parents of the First Child Baptism: Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Rectory. Please call to register.

Please pick up a free copy of the Catholic Digest in the Vestibule of the church.

Mark Your Calendars: Life Enrichment Club,

December 2nd at 11:00AM to 1:30PM. Guest Speaker: Arlene Stevens speaking on "Understanding Reike." All coming are invited bring your favorite "Appetizer" to share with the group. (Serving size to feed 5 people) Hope to see you there—bring a friend.

Scripture Reflection

“In Case of Rapture....Don’t Get Fooled!”

The Gospel for the first Sunday in Advent is always about Christ’s return to glory, what Catholics call the “Second Coming” and it nary creates a ripple among us.

Contrast that with all the hype about “2012” and the popularity of the “Left Behind” series by Hal Lindsay (over 65 million copies sold!) and techno thrillers by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Perkins, many have come to hear about the “Rapture”, which means that born-again believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air at the start of a seven year tribulation and then to await another “third” coming of Christ.

If this sounds confusing it is, and involves using different parts of the bible interpreted very literally and then somehow allowing for different stages or “dispensations” before the end. Often people who subscribe to this thinking are called “dispensationalists” and many have come to influence in government, education, and politics.

This is not Catholic teaching and in fact has led many to believe in a “shoot-em-up” Terminator type of Jesus who will return to kill all evil people and blow up the world.

But as always, the Catholic Church leads people to look forward to Jesus’ second coming by believing and trusting Him now, with appropriate behavior, and looking forward to Him coming to heal the world and to bring God’s gracious mercy to all those in need....and who might that be?

SJA Christmas Cards on Sale in the Rectory : Package of 20 cards for \$5.00. What a bargain!!!!

Financial Statement	
Last Week’s Income was:	
Regular Collection.....	\$9367.18
Religious Retirement Fund.....	\$5862.00
Thank you for your generosity.	

Altar Server Schedule	
Saturday, December 5, 2009	
5:00 P.M.	- M. Welsh, J. Nadorlik
Sunday, December 6, 2009	
7:30 A.M.	- M. Donahue
9:00 A.M.	- A. Krajina, J. & N. Solomon
10:30 A.M.	- G. Kyle, A. Stein, A. Davis
12:00 Noon	- T. & W. Ashton, C. Bajkowski

Be an Angel...Give a gift!

With your help, we will again be sending gifts to needy families in our area. Please pick an angel from our tree. On each angel you will find a "name", an age, and on some, a size.



After you purchase the gift, *securely* attach the angel to your gift and leave the gift under the tree. ***Please do not wrap or seal the gift.*** (Christmas gift bags would be great!) And please, no perishable items, candy or snacks. Gifts can be left at the tree before or after Sunday masses, or before CCD or school. ***Because the gifts are distributed to the families before Christmas, please return all gifts to the tree by Sunday, December 13th.*** Thank you in advance for sharing the joy and love of Christmas with a "stranger". You truly are a Christmas Angel!

The St. Vincent DePaul Society is asking for donations of wrapping paper, gift bags and tape. These donations can be left in the vestibule of the church until December 13th.

Dear Joan,

As a teacher in a local Catholic Elementary School, we often discuss why students fail to behave appropriately in Church. For many of our preschool and kindergarten students, we realize that this may be the first time they have been to Mass without a toy, book or their bag of Cheerios. For our older Students, however, there are no excuses. During a recent Mass at St. Joan’s, I believe that I have found a source of the problem. I witnessed a family in front of me whose children were most likely in grades 3-5, who were talking and laughing during the Consecration. I appreciate those who bring their children to Mass, but if students who are old enough to receive and understand the significance of the Eucharist are permitted (and in this case, even encouraged!) by their parents to how that much irreverence during such an important part of the service, how are teachers expected to successfully correct this type of behavior? But even through all of that, I was still able to find a few moments of quiet prayer....they left right after Communion....**Troubled Teacher**



Dear Troubled Teacher:

I believe that you answered your own question. We’ve known for a long time that if the parents are not reinforcing the right attitude and discipline, it won’t matter what the children are taught elsewhere.

The behavior of our Catholic people at Mass is the bane of our Faith, sad to say. People come to weddings and act as if the church is the reception hall. People come late for Mass, shuffle around during Mass and leave early.

Oh well, “at least they come” is about the most we can expect!

Signed; Joan d’Arc



Christmas Bake Sale: Delicious homemade nut, poppy-seed or apricot rolls. Each roll is 16" and filled with the finest ingredients. Also, the ever popular spiced walnuts, made with cinnamon sugar and a hint of clove. Makes a great gift! Rolls are \$12 each; walnuts are \$10 for a 1lb box. Orders must be received by Dec 13th and may be picked up Dec 19 and 20. Look for order forms in the bulletin or call: (412) 854-1089. Benefits Appalachian Work Camp.

SIGN A CARD FOR OUR SOLDIERS! Dec 4 and 5 after all Masses, the Ladies Aux VFW Post 6664 will have greeting cards available to sign. Please stop by and jot a message to a soldier. We will send them with our packages. Thank you in advance for remembering our troops. (If you would like to donate a box of cards, it would truly be appreciated) Kathie Gasior 412-833-7561.

Once again you can send your Christmas greetings in a beautiful and simple way. The Little Sisters are offering a new design for their Christmas card this year. The card created by Sister Martha Lieb, is ivory with a dark green, hand sketched pencil drawing of Mary sitting and holding the newborn baby, Jesus. The cards are available for 7 cards for \$10 (\$1.50 optional mailing cost), 12 cards for \$15 (\$2.00 optional mailing cost), and 30 cards for \$25 (\$3.00 optional mailing cost) and can be purchased by check or credit card. The Little Sisters also ask that you include the cost of postage for mail orders, (\$1 for 7, \$2 for 12 and \$3 for 30 cards). The cards can be viewed on line at www.littlesistersofthepoor-pittsburgh.org. Send requests to 1028 Benton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 or call 412-307-1100 .

ADVENT SPEAKER AT OUR LADY OF GRACE—WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2 St. Jeanne Jugan, founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor, was remarkable for her humility and love for the poor. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, humble and poor, come hear the story of St. Jeanne, whose mission of caring for the elderly poor continues in 205 homes around the world, including one right in Brighton Heights! Little Sister Rosemary Yao will share about the life of St. Jeanne Jugan, explain the process of her canonization, and share about the life and work of the Little Sisters Sr. Rosemary's presentation will take place at Our Lady of Grace Church, in the Upper Room, following 7:00 p.m. Mass, Wednesday, Dec. 2. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome. For more information, call 412-279-7070.

Father Ray's Quotes: Opportunity may knock once , but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

SCHOOL NEWS

Brunch with Santa, Save the date: Enjoy the magic of the holidays through the eyes of your child at Santa's Brunch on Saturday, December 12, 2009 doors open at 9:45AM and brunch begins at 10:30AM in the Gathering Place. Children will have the opportunity to create holiday crafts, visit with Santa, read stories with Mrs. Claus and dine on a scrumptious kid-friendly brunch . \$8.00 per person (under 2 free). Photos will be available at an additional charge. For tickets call Deanna Seibert at 724-985-1519 or available at the certificate table before all masses.



50/50 Raffle to Benefit Saint Joan of Arc School. Tickets are \$1.00 donation and the drawing will be held on December 21 at the SJA School Christmas Program. Santa will be pulling the lucky number!!! Tickets are available at the certificate table, the Fish Fry, and are available in the School Office. Help support our school, and take a chance at some extra Holiday CASH!!!!

SJA School 2010 Lottery Tickets : Each ticket is \$25.00 for the full year for 365 chances to win off the 7:00 PM Lottery Contact Tamara Manion @ 724-348-9036

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Sisters of St. Francis are sponsoring their 4th annual Take Out Lasagna Dinner on Friday, December 11th from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at their Motherhouse, located in the Whitehall section of Pittsburgh's South Hills (15234). Each dinner costs \$6.00 and includes a choice of cheese or meat lasagna in a marinara sauce, dinner roll and brownie. To order take-out lasagna dinner, please call 412-885-7232 by 1:00 PM on Monday, December 7th.

SPECIAL ADVENT SERIES AT NATIVITY: The Nativity of the Lord in the Gospels will be presented on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16 beginning with the 7:00 p.m. Mass. Fr. William Fay, noted scripture teacher, will speak on the Christmas story as found in the gospel. Join us in church for an enlightening and prayerful look at the Birth of Christ as presented in Sacred Scripture.

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