

Mass Intentions**Saturday, December 13– Lucy, virgin ,martyr**

5:00 P.M. - Rosemarie Powers (Husband & Family)

Sunday, December 14– Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 A.M. - Dolores Sewchok

(Andy & Judy Sewchok)

9:00 A.M. - Richard Baldauf (Wife & Family)

10:30 A.M. - Jack Gallagher (Wife, Peg)

- People of the Parish

12:00 Noon - Larry Inhat (John & Peg Marusich)

Monday, December 15– Advent Weekday

8:00 A.M. - Raymond Ackerman (Family)

1:30 P.M. - Meadowcrest: George Becker
(Sue Kapusta)**Tuesday, December 16- Advent Weekday**

8:00 A.M. - Carl Wirtz (Bill & Mary Anderko)

Wednesday, December 17- Late Advent Weekday

8:00 A.M. - Gerald Fosbaugh

(M/M John Cushma & Family)

9:00 A.M. - Elizabeth Priselac (Geraldine Priselac)

Thursday, December 18– Late Weekday

8:00 A.M. - Joseph White (Riester Family)

Friday, December 19– Late Advent Weekday

8:00 A.M. - Betty Kit Witwicki

(Husband Raymond, Linda & David)

Saturday, December 20– Late Advent Weekday

5:00 P.M. - Salvador D'Amato

(George & Linda Straka)

Sunday, December 21– Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 A.M. - Taboni & Gualazzi Families

(M/M Gutrie Taboni)

9:00 A.M. - Henry Godlewski & Cathryn Bock

(Family)

10:30 A.M. - Mary Kubis (Husband & Family)

- People of the Parish

12:00 Noon - Daniel J. Bradley

(Michael, Rose & Sean Bradley)

Please remember in your prayers those who are**sick:** Rosemarie Jabo, Tony & Jeannie Obidzinski, Tom Kiley, Laurie Smyth, Marnie Rennie, Louise Hillman, Emily Herring, Bill Jurgeovich, Madison Kudlac, Michael Pro, Father Jerome Vereb, Paul Pro, Tim Zalewsky, Rich & Marie Fix, Cathy Villella, Kathleen Gearhart. Help, save, pity and defend your servants O God by your grace!**Sanctuary Lamp** will burn one week for the Blessed Mother in Memory of Ann & Michael Komar requested by the Fuller Family. **A Sanctuary Lamp** will burn for one week for John the Baptist in Memory of Adelle Braun requested by Anita Yopek. **Altar Bread and Wine** for one week in memory of Adelle Braun requested by Anita Yopek.**Memorial Offering Available:** Sanctuary Lamp for one week \$5; Altar Bread & Wine for one week \$25.00.**From the Pastor's Desk**

I am happy to announce that Bishop Zubik has awarded the 2009 "Manifesting the Kingdom" honor to Ms. Carol Sherratt, in recognition of her work with our youth...all of us can join the Bishop on Sunday, January 25 at 3:00 PM for this presentation....Congratulations of course, are in order for Ms. Sherratt.... I am also happy to announce that I met with Bishop Zubik this past Tuesday and he re-appointed me Pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church for another six-year term effective July 1, 2008....I hope that this is also "happy" news for our parishioners, all of whom are so supportive and who, along with our parish staff and employees, make our parish what it is, which we hope can only get better, because as we all know, no one, and no church, is "perfect"...While making announcements, Congratulations are in order for Mr. Cuniak who became engaged last week-end....Please stop by the merchant certificate program table after Mass and help to support our school. Thank You one and all!....

Father Phillip Pribonic

Second Collection today is for Repairs and Replacements. Repair work within the last month included: new regulator for water line; repair to pavilion boiler; replacing flashing on sky lights in atrium; foam insulation of Rectory kitchen, plus decorations (Christmas) for Gathering Place; approximate cost of \$4100.00.

Christmas Mass Schedule: Wednesday Dec. 24th, **No 8:00 AM Mass.** Masses will be at 4:00PM, 6:00 PM, and at 11:30 Festival of Carols, and Mass at Midnight.

Christmas Day 8:00AM, 10:00 AM, and 12 Noon. Come on Christmas Day and get a seat!

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!....by confessing sins: additional confessors available: Monday, December 22 1:30-3:00PM and Tuesday 4-5PM & 7-8 PM.

Important Notice: Any person who wishes to volunteer and has not had their clearances done, must register on the Diocese Data Base First. Please register on: www.diopitt.org, password is protect. If you have any questions, please contact the Rectory. No background checks can be done, until you are registered!

Financial Statement

Last Week's Income was:

Regular Collection.....\$9080.50

Catholic Charities..... \$1291.16

Thank you for your generosity.

Scripture Reflection

Reason #3 for waiting.... Finally, waiting on God opens our hearts and minds to recognize Christ when he comes. This will be the unifying characteristic of the heroes in our Advent scriptures over the next few weeks. Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary-they were all waiting on God, they were all open for God to say a new thing, to do a new thing, to birth a new thing. Did they know how God would come? No. Did they know when God would come? No. Did they know where God would come? No. They knew only THAT God would come, in His own way, His own time, His own place. And that was enough. Because they had learned to trust God enough to wait for Him. Will we do the same? Make no mistake about it, God is coming. The only question is whether anyone, or at least any of us, will notice Him when he does. Let's wait and watch together, shall we?

Dear Joan:

Father was talking about the 10 commandments of forgiving last Sunday, could you please ask him for a copy of them?

Signed: JM

Dear JM:

Here are the 10 commandments of forgiving:

1. It's not easy.
2. It's not just "forgetting".
3. It's not a denial of evil or wrong.
4. It's not indifferent to evil or wrong.
5. It's not approval of evil or wrong.
6. It does not define someone by his/her faults/sins.
7. It allows someone to start over.
8. It recognizes fallen humanity in all of us.
9. It surrenders the "right" to get even.
10. It wishes the perpetrator well: Love your enemies, do good to those who persecute you and pray for them, in this way you will become children of your Heavenly Father who lets the sun shine on the good and the bad! So says the Lord, which is what Christmas is all about!

Signed: Joan d' Arc

Baptized Dec. 7th: Emelyn Mae Schlater, daughter of Todd & Nicole; Bella Aliyah Stromberg, daughter of Dwayne & Leann; Marisa Louise Jones, daughter of John & Cathy. Welcome to St. Joan of Arc.

Christmas Oplatki available at the Rectory \$3.00 per package. **Christmas Cards** available at Rectory \$5.00 for 20 cards...Best Bargain Town!!!!

Our 2008 Angel Tree; You truly are Christmas Angels! With your help, we will again be distributing gifts to needy families in our area. If you picked an Angel from our tree and purchased a gift(s) please securely attach the Pink Angel (for a girl) or a Blue Angel (for a boy) to your bag and leave the gift(s) under the tree. And , please , no perishable items, candy or snacks. You can leave your gifts at the tree before or after Sunday masses, or before CCD or school. *St. Vincent de Paul Society is asking for donations of Christmas wrapping paper, bags and tape.* Please return all gifts and donations to the vestibule of the church as soon as possible up to Tuesday, December 16. Thank you in advance for sharing the joy and love of Christmas with a "stranger".

Appreciation Dinner for those involved in liturgical ministries: Eucharistic ministers, lectors, sacristans, greeters, ushers, choir members, collection counters, and wedding facilitators. Captains, please contact your members (who may bring a guest) and call in count to the Rectory , please. Deadline is December 27. Dinner is Sunday, January 4, 2009, doors open at 5:00PM, Dinner served at 6:00PM.

Christmas Auction: St Joan of Arc School is having their annual Christmas basket auction. The auction will be Tuesday night December 16th after the Christmas Concert. The baskets will be made up of donations from the school students and parents. The auction is open to any parishioners who would like to buy tickets and/or donate any items. All donations are greatly appreciated and all proceeds go directly to the school. The baskets will be on display and tickets will be for sale after the 9:00a.m. 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon masses on December 14th. Tickets are 1 for \$1, 3 for \$2, 7 for \$5, 15 for \$10 and 30 for \$20. Winners do not have to be present.

BAKE SALE: Order in time for holiday enjoyment. Homemade 16" nut, poppy seed or apricot rolls. Still only \$12.00 each. Also, delicious walnuts spiced with cinnamon, clove and sugar. Place orders by Dec 14th for delivery Dec 20th & 21st. For info or ordering call Pat: (412) 854-1089. Benefits Appalachian Work Camp '09.

Altar Server Schedule	
Saturday, December 21, 2008	
5:00 P.M.	- M. Welsh, T. Wockley
Sunday, December 22, 2008	
7:30 A.M.	- B. Swiess, N. Wilhem
9:00 A.M.	- N. & M Leng, A. Swindell
10:30 A.M.	- L. Janda, G. Kyle, C. Shakespeare
12:00 Noon	- A. Rigatti, W. & T. Ashton

HOAGIES – 12” Italian and turkey hoagies will be on sale after all masses next weekend in the atrium and lower parking lot. \$5.00

BREAKFAST – Join us for breakfast next Sunday in The Gathering Place. Bacon, sausage, eggs, pancakes and more! \$5 adult \$3 child

Youth Group

ICE SKATING – All 8th grade and high school students are invited to join us on Monday, December 29 as we board the “T” and head for PPG Place. We’ll meet at the Pleasant Street stop at 9:45 AM and we’ll return at 4:30 PM. We’re keeping our fingers crossed that Fr. Ray will join us. Permission forms are due Sunday, December 21.

Island Party at SJA– Chase away those winter blues and join us for the Tom Watt Island Party to be held February 20 & 21, 2009. Tickets are \$30.00 each which includes the live music of Tom Watt, the “Buffett Man” and a fabulous island buffet dinner. For tickets and further information, please call Pat 412-854-1089.

Stress in Your Marriage? – Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. . 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

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall is honored to be presenting Joe Negri's *Mass of Hope* on Saturday December 20th. This beautiful spiritual piece is a lovely way to begin Christmas week. Mr. Negri is performing with his quartet and members of the Bach Choir and Stage 62. The performance begins at 8:00 p.m. and is followed by a reception with the performer. Tickets are \$25 are available at www.carnegiecarnegie.com or by calling 412/276-3456, x.2.

JUST IN TIME FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GIVING:

The Sisters of Divine Providence have issued a number of CD's still available. **Christmas Always** is a reissue of an excellent Christmas Record from 1964. The CD's are available in many stores where music is sold, including Borders, North Hills and Duquesne University. Also available online at www.buythiscd.com (choral), where you can hear some of the selections, especially the very beautiful *Pie Jesu*. For more information, contact Sister Mary Traupman at mtraupman@verizon.net, or 412-391-7445, ext. 5. Proceeds of the sales help to support the ministries of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

School News

Tuesday, December 16...Christmas Show, 7PM, Church
Wednesday, December 17...Mass, 9AM prepared by Mrs. Moeslein and Grade 5

Thursday, December 18...Christmas Lunch in the Cafeteria
Friday, December 19... \$1.00 Dress Down Day for December

Mrs. Moeslein and the 5th grade are busy preparing our Advent Mass, to be held on Wednesday, December 17 at 9AM. Please join us as we continue to pray and wait for the coming of our Lord.

The students in our 4 year old Preschool through 4th grade, along with their 8th grade big buddies will present their annual Christmas Show “...” on Tuesday, December 16 at 7PM in Saint Joan of Arc Church. The students have been working very hard under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Matter, our music teacher. Also, our band students will perform as part of the show under the direction of our Instrumental Music teacher Mrs. Rie Lauver. Please join us for an entertaining evening in the spirit of the Christmas Season!

Following our Christmas Show, we will hold our annual “Silent Night Auction” in the Gathering Place. Many wonderful baskets can be won! Please plan to join us.

Saint Joan of Arc School was honored to receive a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from the Knights of Columbus, South Hills Council, No. 3084 in Bethel Park. Since 1994, the Knights of Columbus have donated approximately \$43,000 to area Catholic Schools. The faculty, staff and students of Saint Joan of Arc School appreciate the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and their support of Catholic School Education.

Thank You: On behalf of Catholic Charities and those we serve, I extend our 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. Merry Christmas, and thanks again. --- Susan Rauscher, Executive Director

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.