

## December 21, 2008: 4th Sunday of Advent



And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."  
— Luke 1:35

### LITURGY

#### MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

**Sunday, Dec. 21** (2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38)

8:00 AM- For our Parish Family

10:30 AM- Eugene & Eva Brent

**Monday, December 22** (1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56)

7:00 AM- Laddie & Mary Konvicka; Jerome Haas

10:00 AM- Viola C. Grahmann (H'ville Rehab)

**Tuesday, December 23** (Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66)

7:00 AM- Joe & Lydia Kostelnik

**Wednesday, December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE**

(Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25)

4:00 PM- Frank & Annie Schaefer, Paul Jansky

6:00 PM- Paul P. & Mary J. Janak

12:00 Midnight- Jim Bludau, Rose Marie Trojcek

**Thursday, December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY**

(Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18)

8:00 AM- Delaine Kolacny

10:30 AM- Otto Lee Zappe

**Friday, December 26** (Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22)

7:00 AM- Deceased members of Joe & Justina Kolos

8:05 AM- Dorothy & Douglas Mertz

**Saturday, December 27** (1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8)

5:30 PM- Alfons & Cecilia Grahmann

**Sunday, Dec. 28** (Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:22-40)

8:00 AM- Henry, Elizabeth, Celie & David Henke

10:30 AM- Alvin Schneider, Jr.



#### Christmas Mass Schedule:

**St. Mary's:** Christmas Eve – 12:00 Midnight  
Christmas Day – 9:15 a.m.

**Moravia:** Christmas Eve – 5:00 p.m.

**St. John:** Christmas Day – 9:30 a.m.

**Bulletin Sponsor:** In memory of Eugene & Eva Brent by Bob & Lou Kubena.

**Radio Broadcast Sponsor:** In memory of Adolph, Mary, Jerome & Fred Jansky and Frank, Annie & Gene Holik by Charles & Dorothy Jansky.

**Vigil Light Sponsor:** Special Intention for surgery & recovery.

**Our Gift to God:** Envelopes-\$6,788; Immaculate Conception-\$756; Loose-\$1,065; Children's-\$56;

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of** Alma Brosch & Tim Kostelnik of our parish family. *May they & all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

#### Anniversaries:

Mark & Elaine Klekar	30 years	Dec. 23
Philip & Patricia Schlageter	59 years	Dec. 27

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

-Rosary & Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

-Quilting Circle will not meet until January 6th.

-RCIA Class: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

-CCD classes dismissed until January 7th.

-Spiritual Book Study postponed until January 7th.

**AMONG OUR SICK:** Hubert Grahmann, Deacon Marvin Fikac, Mary Laas, Jacque Holchak, Alvin Rosenauer, Frank Luke, Douglas Bludau, Macey Moeller, Margaret Flores, Mary Ann Gaitan, Virginia Pederson, Odessa Blumberg, Debbie Fishbeck, Johnny Rainosek, Josie Ohnheiser, Clint Brewer, Mason Leibham, Josie Muniz, David Tomek, Riley Mika, Joyce Svetlik, Louise Tesch, Mary Bonorden, Marie Grafe, Loraine Butschek, Jesse Cavazos, Bernice Woytek, Evelyn Henke, Lillie Sitka, Harvey Prasek, Annette Krupala, Thelma Mikulenka, Alphonse Steffek, Mary Ann Kana, Bill Chapline, Anthony Corte, Philip Schlageter, Maggie Volcik, Matthew Walker, Amanda Conniff, Marcella Henke, Margaret Timm, Madeline Lakey, Sylvester Garza, Harry Jackson, Helen M. Appelt, Luke Bludau, Mary Kaiser, Michael Kutac, Rosalie Simpson, Hedwig Greer, nursing home residents & homebound.

**Last minute Christmas shopping?** In the Rectory Gift Shop we have Nativity sets, Advent Wreaths, ornaments, statues, afghans, history books, cook books, bibles, rosaries, medals and much more. Check us out!

**Donations for Christmas Flowers:** You may come by the Rectory or place your donation in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



**Calendar Membership Winners: Dec 11:** Anthony Corte, Shiner-\$100; **Dec 12:** Beverly Crofts-\$100; **Dec 15:** Mary Ann Rother-\$50; **Dec 16:** Kaden Fikac, Victoria-\$50; **Dec 17:** Kelly Bludau, Katy-\$50.



**Catholic Daughters Cookbooks** are available for purchase at AllMed Sales & Rentals, Rainosek's True Value, or call Barbara Grahmann at 798-4167.

**Come let us adore Him! Christ our Lord.** The Adoration Chapel will remain open for Christmas and the New Year's holiday. If you are unable to fulfill your regular adoration hour, please find a replacement or call your hourly captain. If you have any questions, please call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224.



**Pro-Life:** Regarding working in the pro-life movement: God is not so much interested in our ability as much as in our availability to Him. Surrender to God's will, join pro-life today.

**"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name**

him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." – Mt 1:23

*From the Desk of Father John*

Our modern observance of Christmas seems to begin in the fall, as stores are filled with holiday displays, and end on December 26, when Christmas trees start peeking out from the trash. However, celebrating Christmas as a Catholic means that, as much as we can, we follow a radically different calendar – one given to us through the ancient wisdom and tradition of the Church – before, during, and even after December 25.

The medieval origins of the very word we use to name this feast and season refers to the fundamental spiritual opportunity that's here for all of us: "Christ's Mass."

At Christmas, we celebrate God's gift of Jesus to the world. When we celebrate "Christ's Mass," this gift is offered to us through Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist. This is the moment toward which all of our preparations – including the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Confession – have brought us.

The first step in celebrating Christmas is to properly celebrate the season of Advent. As we pray with the Church, attend to the Scripture readings of the season, and participate in whatever symbolic celebrations are meaningful to us, we prepare for the coming of the Lord in our lives now and in His fullness at the end of time.

These are the most important and powerful themes we'll encounter in the Scripture, prayer, and celebrations of the Church during the Christmas season.

We celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation: God meeting us, coming to us as one of us, humbly and full of love.

We recall the faith-filled reception of this miraculous good news by Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi.

We allow ourselves to be formed by all that this teaches us about gifts and giving, God's solidarity with all of us – especially the poor and sinners – the sacredness of human life, the peace God promises, and the hope for the fullness of God's presence among us.

The Christmas season begins with Evening Prayer on December 24 and continues through the Baptism of the Lord.

Our gift-giving echoes God's gift of His Son to us. The story and carol of King Wenceslaus' charity, and Matthew's narrative of the Magi traveling far to bring their finest to the newborn king, can help give perspective and direction to how we give our gifts – perhaps praying for our gift recipients and taking extra care to provide for the poor in our gift-giving.

Christians throughout the ages have feasted to celebrate the gift of Jesus, and our feast today is a symbol of our communion as children of God. How can we also remember the poor – among whom Christ was born – during our celebrations and feasting?

The birthplace of Jesus, "Bethlehem," means "house of bread." Many ancient commentators interpret this as prefiguring the Eucharist. Jesus came to earth in the "house of bread," and comes to us in the form of "Living Bread,"

every time we receive Him under the forms of bread and wine in the Blessed Sacrament.



*The Youth ConneXion*



**December 21:** Firefall at 6:00 p.m. in the church followed by High School Youth gathering & Christmas Party at the Youth House. Those participating in the White Elephant Gift Exchange need to bring a \$10 gift that is suitable for anyone.

*Religious Education – Janice Busselman 798-3124*

**December 24 & 31:** No CCD (Christmas Holidays).

*Sacred Heart Catholic School News  
(361) 798-4251*

**\*Classes dismissed** until January 5, 2009.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

**4th Sunday of Advent**

In Mother Teresa's speech before the National Prayer Breakfast in 1994, she related a story of how she had been told of a starving Hindu family. Quickly, she gathered as much rice as she could spare from her orphanage and went to see the family. There were several children, their eyes "shining with hunger" as Mother Teresa put it. The children's mother left the house for a short time; when she returned, Mother Teresa wanted to know where she had gone. "They were hungry, too," she told her, referring to a neighboring Muslim family.

A mother is presented with an unexpected gift, and without thought of self immediately sets about to share it with the world. Gabriel has proclaimed that Mary not only is pregnant, but that she will give birth to the Savior of the world. Talk about unexpected gifts! We have a tendency to sometimes take this story matter-of-factly, but perhaps during this final week of Advent, we might take a few moments to quietly reflect on Mary and how she immediately knew and freely accepted her role in being part of God's greatest gift.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that Mary most perfectly embodies the definition of faith. From her humble acceptance of the angel Gabriel's news to her trust as her Son – God's Son – was led to His death, reveals to us that a mother's faith and love can be perfect (CCC 148-149). In these last few days before Christmas, share in the joy of the season with your mother, even if it is only in her memory. If there has been a falling out, know that she has never stopped loving you; reach out to her, tell her you love her and that life begins today. ©2008 Liturgical Publications Inc



**Merry Christmas!  
Vesele Vanoce!**



Frohliche Weihnachten!  
Feliz Navidad!