

**December 28, 2008: The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph**



*My eyes have seen your
salvation, which you prepared
in sight of all the peoples, a
light for revelation to the
Gentiles, and glory for your
people Israel.” – Lk 2:30-32*

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

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.

Monday, December 29 (1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35)

7:00 AM- Franklin Hlavac

10:00 AM- Julius, Agnes & Max Seitz (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, December 30 (1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40)

7:00 AM- Magdalen Muras

Wednesday, December 31 (1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18)

7:00 AM- Eugene & Paulie Chaloupka

10:00 AM- Thelma Owens (Stevens)

5:00 PM- Jose Guadalupe Hernandez

11:30 PM- Dennis Smirak

Thursday, January 1 – Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day)

(Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21)

8:00 AM- Charles Chaloupka

10:30 AM- James Kouba

Friday, January 2 (1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28)

7:00 AM- Joe, Lillian, Sophie & Katie Muhlsein

8:05 AM- Adela Pohl

Saturday, January 3 (1 Jn 2:29---3:6/Jn 1:29-34)

5:30 PM- Janie, Stasie & Rudy Billimek; Otilia & Jim Zissa

Sunday, January 4 (Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12)

8:00 AM- For our Parish Family

10:30 AM- John & Frances Valigura

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of Franklin Hlavac & Viola C. Grahmann.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In memory of Margaret Etzler by Don & Barbara Rainosek.

Vigil Light Sponsor: Special Intention for recovery.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$4,863; Loose-\$947; Catholic Ed- \$1,724; Children's-\$48; Religious Retirement-\$529.

Promise of Marriage: Beverly Croft & Roger Janak on January 2. Leslie Chapman & Tad Jansky on January 10.

Anniversaries:

Harvey & Helen Appelt 45 years Dec. 28

Roland & Georgia Schaefer 55 years Dec. 28

Philip & Rosemary Hemmi 25 years Dec. 28

Please pray for the repose of the soul of: Frances Brossman Wendler, sister of Rosalee Gaskamp. *May she rest in peace.*

Calendar Membership Winners: Dec 18: Larry Rothbauer-\$100; Dec 19: Sandra Mullen-\$100; Dec 22: Brian & Lori Popp-\$250; Dec 23: Bev Hrcncir-\$250; Dec 24: Nancy Etzler Homeyer, Georgetown-\$250; Dec 25: Patty Grahmann-\$250.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

-No Rosary & Evening Prayer.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

-Quilting Circle postponed until January 6th.

-RCIA Class postponed until January 6th.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

-CCD classes dismissed until January 7th.

-Spiritual Book Study postponed until January 7th.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

-First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 p.m. in the church. The intention this month is *for our country & to respect life.*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

-The Blessed Sacrament will be transferred to the Adoration Chapel at 3:00 p.m. First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

-Serra Club Mass, 8:30 a.m., St. Rose, Schulenburg.

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.

The Adoration Chapel will remain open for 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, call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224.

Spiritual Book Study: You are invited to participate in read-ing & discussing *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by renown author Fr. Henri Nouwen. A chance encounter with a repro-duction of Rembrandt's painting of the encounter between the father & his wayward son sent our author on a long spiritual adventure. In his book he shares the deeply personal meditatton that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell. We who join in this opportunity to study his work are sure to have our own encounter with God as we explore our life experiences in light of this familiar story from Scripture. Who do you most relate to – the father, the younger son or the elder son? Does it change for you? Come join us in this adventure & be enriched by the words we will read and the stories we will share on Wednesdays beginning January 7, 6:00 – 7:10 p.m. at Mary's House. For book ordering information, please call Pat Scherer at (979) 562-2252.

From the Desk of Father John

For Catholics, December 25 is only the beginning of the Christmas season.

The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on the Sunday in the Christmas "octave" – an eight-day period after Christmas. It is a fitting day to thank God for our own families and pray for a deepening of mutual love, in imitation of the Holy Family.

On the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28, we remember the children killed by Herod in his determination to end the life of the Messiah. This can be a day of prayer for the innocents of today who are exploited and abused – many people now pray on this day for the victims of abortion – and an opportunity to think about bringing the compassion of Christ to those in need.

New Year's Eve, December 31, is a day that almost instinctively lends itself to prayer. Many churches have prayer vigils, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction during this evening, watching for the New Year.

The Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, January 1, is both a feast honoring Mary, the Mother of God, and a day of Prayer for World Peace. Our celebration of the New Year can be deepened by prayer that our world will be open to the peace Jesus offers.

The Feast of the Epiphany is traditionally on January 6. *Epiphany* means "manifestation," and so this feast is the celebration of God's glory being manifest to all nations, symbolically through the Magi. This is a good day to set the Magi in the nativity scene and share their story from the Gospel of Matthew.

Epiphany is also a traditional day to bless homes. This blessing incorporates inscribing the year, bracketing the initials of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) above the door, usually in chalk, like this: 20+C+M+B+09. (Another tradition claims the initials stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, meaning "May Christ bless this home.")

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the final "Christmas" feast, celebrated on the first Sunday after Epiphany and commemorates God's revelation of the divinity of Jesus at His baptism in the Jordan River. It's a good day to celebrate our own baptism, our "new birth" in Christ and our entrance into His Church.



The Youth ConneXion



January 11: Youth gathering at 4:00 p.m. at the Youth House; meeting to follow.

January 17: CHAMPS meet at 2:30 p.m. in the church.

Religious Education – Janice Busselman 798-3124

CCD classes dismissed until January 7, 2009.

Sacred Heart Catholic School News
(361) 798-4251

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

Sacred Heart School Endowment Fund: In honor of Pete Steinberg's 82nd Birthday by his family – \$1,000.00.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – It may sound like a story line from a bad situation comedy, but how many of you parents out there have gone to one of those parent-teacher meetings, only to come away shaking your head in wonder. "Was that our kid she was talking about?" Little Junior who can't find the clothes hamper, talks with his mouth full, and slugs his sister at home is one of the most delightful young students in Mrs. Smith's class. Sometimes, are we standing too close to our children to really see them for who they are?

According to ancient Jewish laws, a woman who had given birth was not allowed into the temple for forty days, where she was then given "purification" as described in today's Gospel reading from Luke. Most new mothers would also offer a lamb and a dove for a sacrifice, or if the family was very poor, two doves or pigeons, as was the case for Joseph and Mary.

It was Simeon and Anna, two faithfilled individuals from outside the family, who recognized with joyful exclamations that the child Jesus was the Messiah. Luke tells us that Joseph and Mary "were amazed at what was said about him."

In today's seemingly secular world, where those of faith are greeted with disdain and even hostility, the faithful family stands even more importantly as a center of life itself (CCC 1656). The Second Vatican Council even recognized that parents are "by word and example the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children. They should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each child." Today is the feast of the Holy Family; look at the children around you, perhaps for the first time, with amazement at these young gifts from God.

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Prayer for Rain: Almighty God, we are in need of rain. We realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky, what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is. To think that so much water can fall out of the sky, which now is empty and clear! We place our trust in You. Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice, and the rivers will sing Your praises, and the hearts of men will be made glad. Amen.

Pro-Life: In 1960, 1 in 16 women developed breast cancer; today it is nearly 1 in 8. There can be many factors bringing on breast cancer. Many reports in the U.S. indicate a link between abortion and breast cancer. We must encourage women not to abort, not only for the life of the baby but also for the health of the mother.

Have a Happy & Blessed New Year!