

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun Nov 28	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	10:30 AM	<i>Interpreted Mass for the Deaf</i>
Tues Nov 30	6:10 PM	Bingo
Wed Dec 1	5:45-6:30 PM	Pro-Life Rosary
	6:30 PM	8:15 Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	10:30 Choir Rehearsal
	7:30-8:30 PM	Parent Meeting First Penance
Thurs Dec 2	9:00-11:00 AM	Eucharistic Adoration
Fri Dec 3	6:10 PM	Bingo
Sat Dec 4	9:30-10:30 AM	Children's Choir
Sun Dec 5	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	9:15-10:15 AM	Religious Ed. Gr. K-9
	10:30 AM	<i>Interpreted Mass for the Deaf</i>
	1:30-3:30 PM	Retreat Grade 3 Social Hall Parent(s) & Student
	6:30-8:00 PM	Religious Ed. Gr. 10 & 11



Mass Intentions

Monday, Nov. 29

8:30 a.m. † Josephine & Andrew Marock (*Family*)

Tuesday, Nov. 30 St. Andrew

8:30 a.m. † James Webb (*Neighbors & Friends*)

Wednesday, Dec. 1

8:30 a.m. † Mary Grace Ackerman (*Francis J. Ackerman*)

Thursday, Dec. 2

8:30 a.m. † Orlando DeCriscio (*Jeff & Diane DeCriscio*)

Friday, Dec. 3 St. Francis Xavier

8:30 a.m. † Kyle Holtz (*St. Rose Student Council*)

Saturday, Dec. 4 St. John of Damascus

8:30 a.m. Members of the Altar & Rosary Society

5:30 p.m. † Augusta C. Orsena (*Family*)

Sunday, Dec. 5 Second Sunday of Advent

7:00 a.m. † Barbara (Beiswenger) Sullivan (*Beiswenger Family*)

8:15 a.m. † Wally Hurliman (*Family*)

10:30 a.m. † Rose Basciani (*M/M Paul Cooney*)

12 NOON Mass For The People

OFFERTORY PRESENTERS

Dec. 4	5:30 p.m.	Rose Nasralla & Carmie Maniglia
Dec. 5	7:00 a.m.	M/M Paul Beiswenger & Son
	8:15 a.m.	Paul & Mary Engelman
	10:30 a.m.	Dennis & Carole Housum
	12 Noon	Joe & Gail Eberhardt

MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEK

Altar Servers for December 4-5, 2004

Saturday, December 4, 8:30 a.m. Loretta Bobetich, Max Sheedy

5:30 p.m. Molly McCall, Maggie McCall, Nate Sanders

Sunday, December 5, 2004

7:00 a.m. Julie Fox

8:15 a.m. Jonathan Smith, Alex Askey, Sean Dillon

10:30 a.m. Jeffrey Karl, Tim Link, Megan Mignogna

12 Noon Taylor Brumbaugh, Justin Wiley

Eucharistic Ministers for December 4-5, 2004

5:30 p.m. S. Askey, B. Shoenfelt, J. Shoenfelt, S. Baker, G. Bettwy

7:00 a.m. L. Altiero, J. Wustrow, R. Fox

8:15 a.m. P. Engelman, M. Engelman, D. Smith, G. Stoltz,

B. Stoltz

10:30 a.m. J. Fromknecht, B. Gentile, P. Fromknecht, D. Housum,

R. Friedenberger

12 Noon R. Fiore, D. Shrift, R. Skupien

Lectors for December 4-5, 2004

5:30 p.m. Vi Bettwy, Joe Maschue

7:00 a.m. Jim Glasson

8:15 a.m. Chuck Wolf, Kathy Ansman

10:30 a.m. Ken Haney, Tony Labriola

12 Noon Jim Lane

FROM OUR PASTOR

RECONCILIATION SERVICES Seventeen priests will be here for our Advent Penance Service, MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, at 7:00 P.M. Other opportunities for reconciliation are: St. Matthew's, Tyrone, December 5, 2:00 P.M.; Our Lady of Lourdes, December 10, 5:30 P.M.; St. Theresa's, December 11, 10:00 A.M.; St. Mary's, Hollidaysburg, December 12, 4:00 P.M.; St. John's, December 13, 6:30 P.M.; Cathedral, December 15, 6:30 P.M.; Sacred Heart, December 16, 5:30 P.M.; and St. Mary's Altoona, December 19, 5:00 P.M.

WELCOME, YULE! For Advent and the Christmas season, the bulletin includes an ideal way for our entire parish to honor and celebrate these holy seasons. Look for blessing prayers for home use of the Christmas tree, crèche, gifts, family and home. Also, included are: Reflections that explore the Christian meaning of popular traditions, reflections on the comfort and joy of the season's scriptures, and ideas for sharing charity and hospitality.

ST ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL NEWS

There is no school on Monday, Nov. 29.

Tuesday, Nov. 30 is our first return day for lottery calendars.

We are conducting our annual TOY / SMALL GIFT DRIVE to benefit the St. Vincent DePaul Society's Family Kitchen which is under the direction of Sr. Paula DelGrosso. We will be collecting **new, unwrapped** toys or children's gifts (**MAXIMUM \$20.00**) until Friday, Dec. 17. You may give your donation to any St. Rose School student or bring it to the school office. We would appreciate your support.

CANDLES: For the Men & Women in the Military who are serving our Country by the Christian Mothers, Fritz & Mary Werkmeister by Joyce & Toby Kjarsgaard,

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT Class will be held on December 5, 2004. We will meet in the St. Rose Reading Room from 9:15 – 10:15. Topic: **What Gifts Can We Give To Christ? The Church is the Body of Christ.** Refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team (AFF). Join us whenever you can. You are welcome to one or all of the gatherings.

PRAYER CORNER

TO GIVE AND NOT TO COUNT THE COST

O My Lord Jesus!

Teach me to be generous;

Teach me to serve You as Your deserve;

To give and not to count the cost;

To fight and not to heed the wounds;

To toil and not to ask for rest;

To labor, seeking no reward,

Save that of knowing that I do Your will. Amen

St. Ignatius of Loyola

FIRST PENANCE

There will be a Parent Meeting on December 1, 2004. This meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and last until 8:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Retreat for Grade 3 will be held on December 5 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. This retreat is also for the parents.

Readings for the Week of November 28, 2004

Sunday: Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

"IN DEFENSE OF LIFE"

A landmark statement on the right of comatose people to receive food and water was made by Pope John Paul II earlier this year: "Even our brothers and sisters who find themselves in the clinical condition of a 'vegetative state' retain their human dignity in all their fullness. The loving gaze of God the Father continues to fall upon them, acknowledging them as his sons and daughters, especially in need of help."

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

This year the annual Christmas Party will be a Dinner at Hoss's Restaurant on Dec. 13 following the 5:30 evening Mass. The cost for the dinner is \$5.00. There will be no gift exchange. We will have entertainment. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and entertainment will follow. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer- please do so by Nov. 28.

LUNCH AND LEARN: As an outgrowth of the Appreciative inquiry process we are planning to start a program of friendship and spiritual enrichment called "Lunch and Learn". This would be a discussion style program to help participants enjoy a light lunch and learn more about God's love and our faith. We would probably meet about once a month. There will be an organizational meeting soon to develop the basic structure of the program and to answer questions about the time, date and location of the meetings, etc. If you are interested in joining this group, please call Doris or Jim Klueg at 943-8793.

EXPERIENCE WORKS

EXPERIENCE WORKS in Altoona is offering free computer classes for people with physical or mental disabilities who are willing to enter the job market. Please call 943-8840 to enroll by December 6

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 806 11 Street will have a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on December 5, 2004-8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Adults \$4.00 Children \$2.00 Take outs available. Serving in School Cafeteria.

St Rose of Lima Bingo is in need of brown paper bags. Please put the bags in the bin located in the foyer of the church.

St. Vincent College Information Night

Area high school students and their parents/guardians are invited to attend a SVC Information Night at Bishop Guilfoyle High School (Cafeteria) on Monday, December 13, 2004. The meeting will run from 7 to 8 p.m. College Faculty/Staff & area Alumni/ae will answer questions about: College choice, Financial Aid, Career Placement & the value of a Catholic, Benedictine education. If interested, contact Michael Gerdich 1-800-782-5549 or email: admission@stvincent.edu or check our web site www.stvincent.edu

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS...First Sunday of Advent

Let us begin a new Liturgical Year with a deeper appreciation for the gift that is the Eucharist. Pope John Paul II reminds us that the Eucharist calls the members of the Church to share their spiritual and material goods.

CAMPUS MINISTER SOUGHT

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is seeking a Campus Minister for Penn State University, State College, Pa. The candidate should be a Catholic in good standing and will be responsible for designing and conducting educational, social, spiritual, and peace/justice programs, workshops and retreats, with an emphasis on women's issues; participating on the Christian Initiation Team and lead Bible studies. The applicant would also provide pastoral care/counseling, Requirements: Master's Degree in Theology, Religious Education, Pastoral Ministry, Liturgy or a related field preferred. Application Process: Send letter of intent, resume, three letters of reference to: PSU Campus Minister Search, Youth and Campus Ministry Office, Attn: Thomas J. McConnell, 126 A. Logan Blvd. Hollidaysburg, Pa. 16648

CHRISTMAS CONCERT – AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Popular Catholic music artist Michael O'Brien will perform a brand new Christmas show featuring songs from his latest CD entitled, "Home for Christmas." Tickets are \$10.00 each and are available at each church rectory or by calling the contact person listed.

Friday, Dec. 10-7:00 p.m. Windber High School Auditorium-contact Jan Puricelli 814-467-7331, Benefits St. Anthony Church, Windber.

Saturday, Dec. 11-7:00 p.m. Basilica of St. Michael, Loretto-contact Jennifer Sentz 814-471-8634-Benefits St. Michael Youth Group.

Sunday, Dec. 12-7:00 p.m. Holy Name Church, Ebensburg-contact Gus Lieb-814-472-7244-Benefits Holy Name Youth Group.

Monday, Dec. 13-6:30 p.m. St. Benedict Church, Carroltown-Benefits St. Benedict's Wheelchair.

First Sunday of Advent

A Blessing for an Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God,
whose light shines even in the dark
and whose love overcomes anger, hatred,
and fear.

Send your blessing on this Advent wreath
and on the family of faith gathered here
in its light.

We pray that your light may illuminate
our hearts
so that we may proclaim your presence
to a waiting world.

**Come, Lord Jesus, into our midst.
Light of the world,
Fire of our hearts,
Bearer of our wounds,
Lover of our souls. Amen.**



November 28, 2004

Changing Priorities

To announce a change in traffic patterns during rush hour, certain signs in Great Britain read, “Changed Priorities Ahead.” This is the perfect sign for these Advent days that challenge people to reform their lives and change their behaviors. On the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church’s new year, that simple sign proclaims that we, too, need to change direction. A new year, whether for Church or school or the traditional January 1, always brings with it promises to live a more healthy, balanced, or fruitful life. These promises spring from our lips and hearts, announcing that this year will be different.

On the First Sunday of Advent, we might promise to be more open to the movement of God in our lives and the world or to look more intently for Christ in another person.

In the day-to-day living of the year, we often put importance on things that are not important and neglect the very stuff of life—love of family and friends, relationship with God, and care of the poor. The First Sunday of Advent is the Church’s announcement that we are called to reflect on our priorities and to change them if necessary.

This Week at Home

Monday, November 29

Here, but Not Yet

We live in a peculiar time. In Advent, our prayer cries out, "Come, Lord Jesus!" And yet Jesus has come and dwells with us now. His coming turned the world on its head in ways we are only beginning to understand. Advent reminds us that, just as a pregnant woman awaits the coming of the child already within her, Christians await a second coming. In order to prepare ourselves for Jesus who comes again, we recall Mary waiting for Jesus long ago. How will you prepare for this coming?

Tuesday, November 30

Caring for Others

The last day of November heightens our anticipation of Christmas to come. Suddenly everything seems closer and it is hard to focus attention on the everyday living we need to do. Use this time to become aware of the people around you. Give more attention to family and friends and care for those who are not blessed with either. Contribute food or gifts to a needy family through your church or local charity. Pray daily for the needs of the world.

Wednesday, December 1

Marking the Days

Traditional Advent calendars count down the days until Christmas by displaying small pictures leading up to a Christmas nativity scene. Contemporary versions might reveal tiny ornaments to be hung on a small Christmas tree, both sacred and secular, for the Christmas season. The calendars mark our slow progress to Christmas and help us get ready to celebrate. Perhaps this year each day might be marked by a special prayer, task, or activity that will help others.

Thursday, December 2

Supporting the Work of Peace and Justice

Today's reading from Isaiah (26:1–6) calls out to open the gates for the "nation that is just, one that keeps faith." Think about the actions of our nation over the past year. In what way have we served justice or been faithful to the law of God? If there is an area of particular concern, take today to write to your congressional representative to express your concern. If you feel some particular program has worked for justice in the world (an example might be the Peace Corps), lend your support in the form of a letter, a contribution, or a compliment.



Friday, December 3

Feast of Francis Xavier

The feast of Saint Francis Xavier celebrates one of the original six Jesuits and, arguably, the most adventurous. Called to missionary work in India first, he won many converts among the poor and outcast. When he heard of the kingdom of Japan, he traveled there to discover a sophisticated people who made him rethink his methods for preaching the Gospel. He began to find ways of connecting the Gospel message with the strengths inherent in the local culture. After 27 months, he decided to press on to China but fell ill and died before he arrived. He was 46 years old. Offer prayer for all those who seek to preach the Gospel in foreign lands. Look for ways you might give witness to faith by your actions or words.

Saturday, December 4

Laborers for the Harvest

Today, Matthew's Gospel (9:35–10: 1, 5a, 6–8) tells of Jesus' compassion for the many people who seemed lost or abandoned. He challenges his disciples to ask God (the master of the harvest) to send laborers for his harvest. The world has not changed much since then. There are many people who are troubled and lost in our world, our towns, even our churches. Today, we are the laborers in God's field, called to reach out to those who need help. Is there one tangible thing you can do today for people who are in need?



Minutes
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
November 11, 2004, 7:00 PM, Computer Room

Opening Prayer

Father Crookston opened the meeting with a prayer.

Members present were: Father Crookston, Father Spishak, Pat Ronan, Vi Bettwy, Sue Cossitor, Pat Irwin, Doug Spayd, Joe Eberhardt, Judy Rossi, Cindy Boslet, and Tom Goss.

Minutes

The minutes of October 14, 2004 were approved.

Committee Reports

Liturgy

Sue Cossitor reported the following:

- Brown paper bags were distributed to parishioners to be filled with nonperishable food items and to be returned on Thanksgiving Day or the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving.
- Blessed straw will be distributed either the 2nd or 3rd week of Advent.
- A list will be available for families to volunteer for the candle lighting ceremony of the Advent wreath during the Sundays of Advent.
- The RCIA Rite of Welcoming occurred on Sunday, November 7, at the 8:15 mass. Three people are preparing for full participation in the church.
- The Children's Choir for Christmas met on Saturday, November 6, 9:30 – 10:30 AM, and will continue to meet for scheduled practices until Christmas. Twenty-four children have signed up and more are expected. Children may still sign up on Saturday, November 13.
- The choir asked that the pastoral council explore the possibility of a chair lift for the steps leading to the choir loft. It was noted, however, that there appears to be a liability concern for a chair lift to be installed in a public space. Father Crookston will explore the issue.

Father Crookston and Pat Irwin informed the council that the Audio Enhancement Task Force met and is seeking advice from an architect and an acoustician regarding a new sound system for the church. Once a package is designed and approved, it will be given out for bid.

Education

Catechesis: Vi Bettwy reported the following:

- The school is continuing their "anti-bullying" program which included the meeting with parents of all students.
- The school masses will continue on the third Saturday of the month.
- The classes will participate in the Oxfam program again this year.
- Baptism group will hold classes in November. They are re-grouping as members have rotated off and new members are coming on.
- Father Spishak reported that marriage prep will have their training in the spring. He has four new couples on the team.
- RCIA is meeting on Tuesday and/or Thursday. There are at present three people preparing for full participation in the church. The Rite of Welcoming was held on Sunday, November 7, at the 8:15 Mass.
- Religious Ed. is going smoothly. There are three retreats scheduled for November. The confirmation candidates had their Christian Story retreat at Laurel Lodge on Sunday, November 7. All were in attendance except for one member. There was a large group of parents who turned out to help facilitate. On Sunday, November 14th, there is a 4th grade retreat and on Sunday, November 21st the 10th grade will have their Holy Spirit retreat. On Sunday, November 14th the religious education students in grades 2 to 4 and grade 8 will participate in the 8:15 AM mass.
- The Kentucky Project has been started for this year.
- On Saturday, November 13, the Adult Faith group is sponsoring a trip to the Carmelite Monastery, the Chapel House at Loretto and St. Michael's Basilica.
- Enrichment classes continue once a month in the Reading Room of the school after the 8:15 AM Mass.
- The next meeting for the Catechesis Council is scheduled for December 6th. First reconciliation is December 20th.

Parish School: Pat Ronan reported the following:

- An IBM grant, through one of the parents, has provided six new computers for the lab. Six of the computer room computers will go into classrooms. Most classrooms will have two computers that are connected to the Internet.

- The school will be conducting a number of outreach programs in the coming weeks: November 19, the 7th and 8th graders are running the Oxfam Hunger Banquet. It is open to students in grades one through eight, parents, family members, parishioners, and anyone interested in participating. People are encouraged to attend. Oxfam raises money for the poor and presents a powerful lesson. Call the school office if interested in attending (942-7835).

- Nonperishable food will be collected and donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society during the week of November 15th.

- The annual Toy and Small Gift Collection will be done for Sr. Paula's Family Kitchen. Toys and/or small gifts for children may be brought to the school until December 17th.

- The Student Council has raised money throughout the year for Adopt-a-Family Project done in conjunction with Catholic Social Services.

- The children will make Christmas cards for the inmates of area prisons.

- Parent/Teacher Conferences occurred Wednesday evening, November 10th and Friday morning, November 12th.

- The school "Thanksgiving Mass" will be on Wednesday, November 24th at 8:30 AM. All are invited to attend.

- There will be a daily Advent service each morning starting after Thanksgiving break.

- The Christmas Program is set for Thursday, December 9th in the Maria Parish Center. Snow date is December 16th.

- The next weekend school liturgy will be November 20th at 5:30 PM.

Finance

Stewardship Renewal: The Ministry Fair final report will be available for next meeting. It was noted that all positive comments were heard about the fair. To date, there have been 158 new signees for ministries as a result of the Ministry Fair.

Other: Father Crookston reported the results for increased giving. Between November 2003 and October 2004, \$440,000 was contributed which is approximately a \$57,000 increase from the contributions made between November 2002 and October 2003. Secondly, Father mentioned that two or three members of the Foundation of the Altoona-Johnstown diocese will join the December 2nd council meeting to explain the ways our parish can create funds within the Foundation.

Maintenance

The Memorial Plaque for Parish Life Upgrade Donors should be complete by Thanksgiving with everything engraved.

Family Life/Activities

Father Spishak suggested there was an interest in another parish pictorial directory. He shared some examples of directories and indicated there would be no cost to the parish. Father Spishak agreed to chair the committee and indicated the need for help with the following subcommittees: Phone (20 volunteers), Publicity/Sign Up (16 volunteers), and Set-up (2 or more volunteers).

Social Justice

Grocery Bag Project – over 200 grocery bags have been taken home by parishioners to be filled and returned by Thanksgiving.

Old Business

Page one of the Appreciative Inquiry Action Plan was reviewed and discussed, especially the action plan regarding a youth group. Father Crookston asked the council to review and to jot down notes on the remaining pages to discuss further the plans at the next meeting.

New Business

An opening has occurred on the council. Father Crookston asked members to bring names to the next meeting for nomination.

Schedule of Meetings

December 2, January 6 (Ministries Dinner), February 10, March 10, April 7, May 12, June 5 (Parish Picnic, Noon Mass).

Next Meeting's Opening/Closing Prayers

Cindy Boslet will give the next meeting's opening/closing prayers.

Closing Prayer

Father Spishak gave the closing prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Judy Rossi*