

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun Dec 12 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 9:15-10:15 AM Religious Ed. Gr. K-9
 10:30 AM *Interpreted Mass For the Deaf*
 6:30-8:00 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 10 & 11

Tues Dec 14 6:10 PM **Bingo**

Wed Dec 15 5:45-6:30 PM **Pro-Life Rosary**
 6:30 PM **8:15 Choir Rehearsal**
 7:30 PM **10:30 Choir Rehearsal**

Thurs Dec 16 9:00-11:00 AM **Eucharistic Adoration**

Fri Dec 17 6:10 PM **Bingo**

Sat Dec 18 9:30-10:30 AM **Children's Choir**

Sun Dec 19 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 9:15-10:15 AM Religious Ed. Gr. K-9
 10:30 AM *Interpreted Mass for the Deaf*
 6:30-8:00 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 10 & 11



Mass Intentions

Monday, Dec. 13 St. Lucy

8:30 a.m. † Father Daniel O'Friel (*Gene & Vi Bettwy*)
 5:30 p.m. † James Webb (*St. Rose of Lima Christian Mothers*)

Tuesday, Dec. 14 St. John of the Cross

8:30 a.m. † Nicholas Fiore (*Frances Chiarieri*)

Wednesday, Dec. 15

8:30 a.m. † William K. Osmolenski (*Dr. & Mrs. G.A. Osmolinski*)

Thursday, Dec. 16

8:30 a.m. † Rose Basciani (*Ken & Linda Teeter*)

Friday, Dec. 17

8:30 a.m. † Kyle Holtz (*Mike, Deborah, Ashley & Sean Dillon*)

Saturday, Dec. 18

8:30 a.m. † Mary C. Kline (*Aileen Link*)
 5:30 p.m. † James Nasralla (*Family*)

Sunday, Dec. 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00 a.m. † Edith Altiero (*Becky & Heather Haulman*)
 8:15 a.m. † Orlando DeCriscio (*Robert & Kimberly, Mick & Tammy DeCriscio*)
 10:30 a.m. † Mary E. Fiore (*Juliet Fiore*)
 12 NOON Mass For The People

PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING - Dec. 4-5, 2004

Regular	\$7569.71	Christmas	\$ 274.50
Capital Campaign	\$ 366.00	Rose	\$ 156.24
Immac. Conception	\$ 54.00	Rel. Retirement	\$ 120.00
Human Development	\$ 10.00	Candle	\$ 5.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 846.80	Initial	\$ 3.00
Register	\$ 5.00	All Saints	\$ 5.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 35.00	Total	\$ 9450.25

MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEK

Altar Servers for December 18-19, 2004
 Saturday, December 18 8:30 a.m. Tim Link, Volunteer
 5:30 p.m. Brad Spayd, Joshua Shultz, Jared Bimle
 Sunday, December 19, 2004
 7:00 a.m. Nicole Altiero
 8:15 a.m. Jamie Novack, Sean Dillon, Tai Irwin
 10:30 a.m. Becky Hughes, Johnny Brown, Jarod Brumbaugh
 12 Noon Amerisa Watson, Josef Maier
Eucharistic Ministers for December 18-19, 2004
 5:30 p.m. B. Shoenfelt, J. Brown, B. Kooman, M. Kooman, J. Shoenfelt
 7:00 a.m. G. Miller, R. Kline, R. Fox
 8:15 a.m. R. Novack, R. Friedenberger, D. Cree, P. Engelman
 10:30 a.m. T. Heiss, D. Fraundorfer, K. Madariaga, K. Mrdjenovich, D. Housum
 12 Noon C. Anslinger, J. Frena, M. Wiley
Lectors for December 18-19, 2004
 5:30 p.m. Maria Spayd, Joe Maschue
 7:00 a.m. John Kenny
 8:15 a.m. Joseph Campbell, Ken Haney
 10:30 a.m. Todd Cammarata, Pat Condryn
 12 Noon Denise Watson

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. 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.

CATHOLICS, COME HOME Our team that welcomes returning Catholics hopes that the letter you received last week is informative and helpful. Advent and especially Christmas are times when family and friends think about getting back to church. Those who want to return have issues and questions. The letter tells of the same meeting offered twice at 7:00 P.M. (December 16 and January 3) for those who know someone who wants to return to the church. The sessions for the returning Catholics are 7:00 P.M. January 17 and 31. All the sessions will gather in the church foyer.

THÉRÈSE Viewing of the motion picture masterpiece about Saint Thérèse of Lisieux starts December 17 at Carmike in the Logan Valley Mall. The film portrays the *ordinary life* and the *extraordinary soul* of the Little Flower. For more information, visit www.theresemovie.com. A generally favorable review is at www.osv.com. Scroll to Movies, Music and More.

ST ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to first grader Maddison Fitch who asked her friends to donate to the school library instead of buying birthday gifts for her. Thank you, Maddy, for being so generous.

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 DeGrosso. We will be collecting **new, unwrapped** toys or children's gifts (**MAXIMUM \$20.00**) until Friday morning, Dec. 17. You may give your donation to any St.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rose School student or bring it to the school office. We would appreciate your support.

Our Pre Kindergarten Christmas program is Tuesday, Dec. 14th at 10:00 AM in the Maria Parish Center.

Readings for the Week of December 12, 2004

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

PLEASE do not remove Today's Missals or 2005 Music Issues from the church pews. The blue vinyl covers with both books should remain in the pews at all times. If you have a need for a Today's Missal or Music Issue please see Sue Cossitor at the rectory to request one. We must keep six books in each pew so that our congregation has the necessary worship aids for Sunday Masses. Thank you for your cooperation.

OFFERTORY PRESENTERS

Dec. 18	5:30 p.m.	Rose Nasralla & Carmie Maniglia
Dec. 19	7:00 a.m.	Dan & Brenda Altiero & Family
	8:15 a.m.	Frank & Rose Marie Fochler
	10:30 a.m.	Irwin Family
	12 Noon	Richard & Carol Anslinger

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Any parishioner that would like a Christmas Flower on our altar dedicated for a loved one is asked to use your Christmas Flower envelope or use a plain envelope. Kindly drop the envelope in the collection basket by Dec. 19 Your memorials will be in our Christmas Bulletin. **PLEASE PRINT YOUR REMEMBRANCE.**

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

Dr. Zane Gates will be signing his new Book MaCalaster Project on Sunday, Dec. 18th from 1-5 p.m. at Thompson's Pharmacy, 600 E. Chestnut Ave. All proceeds from Dr. Gates' Books go to the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation, which operates an "after school" and Summer Program for children at Evergreen Manors. Dr. Gates is a former member of this parish, an alumnus of our school and B.G. After becoming a pharmacist and an internist, he returned home to start a free clinic for the uninsured and to attempt to enrich the lives of the children who are growing up where he did. This is a chance for you to help, and Books make good Christmas Gifts!

Once again during Advent, Christian Mothers will have the Angel Tree in the foyer. Please take an angel, put the name or intention to be prayed for and place it back on the tree.

Flowers for the shut-ins will be delivered Dec. 11 & 12. If you are able to help please call Mary Engelman at 943-3796 or Zerelda Geis at 942-6554

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT Class will be held on December 12, 2004. We will meet in the St. Rose Reading Room from 9:15 – 10:15. Topic: **Opening Our Hearts to Jesus.** 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

PLEASE VISIT OUR SHUT-INS

Join us in our Spiritual and Corporal works of Mercy. Please take an ornament from the box, and take the tag off of the ornament of the person to visit. Place the ornament on the tree. The ornament is to remain on our parish tree. It is not to be given to the shut-ins.

Please pray for these people and take a small gift to them. So let's get together and give something back to God.

PRAYER CORNER

God of compassion and mercy, look kindly on those in our midst who are suffering and crying out for help. Help us, your servants open our hearts and minds in a spirit of genuine love and charity. Teach us to be merciful, just as You our Father shows mercy. Teach us to be compassionate, just as You our Father shows compassion for us. Amen

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL

December 12 Matthew 11:2-11
The gospel teaches us that our Christmas list should not be limited to those who are "naughty and nice" but should also include those who are blind, lame, sick, deaf, dying and the poor. Be identified as a follower of the One who preached generosity to those who need.

"IN DEFENSE OF LIFE"

During this season in which we celebrate the coming of Our Savior as a newborn, let us give thought to those unborn babies whose advent is terminated by the hideous, painful procedures of stabbing and crushing (partial birth abortion), suffocation (hysterotomy), scalding (saline injection) and dismemberment (dilation and curettage), all of which are perfectly legal methods of abortion.

HOLIDAY CONCERT

First Evangelical Lutheran Church and The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament present a Holiday Concert, December 19, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1401 12th Ave. Altoona. The choirs of both churches join together with guest instrumentalists to present music of the season, featuring the cantata, "Once Upon a Night," by Pepper Choplin

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS 3rd Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist's role in the divine plan was to prepare others for the coming of the Lord. Each of us, whether single or married, lay or religious, has a unique role in God's plan. How are you fulfilling your personal vocation?

ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Cathedral Music Ministry will present their annual Advent of Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, Pa. The Pennsylvania Consort and the Cathedral Choir will present Handel's Messiah. The concert will start at 7:00 p.m. There will be a free will offering.

DEFINITION OF TERMS – GAUDETE SUNDAY

The Third Sunday of Advent is regarded with particular joy as Advent is half over and Christmas is soon to follow. The custom of wearing rose colored vestments and using a rose colored candle in the Advent Wreath symbolizes the joy in anticipating the celebration of Christ's birth.

In response to a parish member's recent family tragedy involving carbon monoxide (co) poisoning, we are encouraging all families without a CO detector in their house to consider purchasing one this month as a 'stocking stuffer'. All of you probably have smoke detectors, but please remember that CO is the 'silent killer' and a detector could save your family from a needless disaster.

Minutes
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
December 2, 2004, 7:00 PM, Computer Room

Opening Prayer

Cindy Boslet opened the meeting with a prayer.

Members present were: Father Crookston, Diane Gormley for Pat Ronan, Vi Bettwy, Sue Cossitor, George Baker, Pat Irwin, Adam Trybus, Frank Fochler, Judy Rossi, Cindy Boslet, Todd Cammarata, and Tom Goss.

Guests present were: D. C. Knoles, Diocese Foundation; and Joe and Patty Fromknecht, Ministry Fair Chairpersons.

Minutes

The minutes of November 11, 2004 were approved.

Formation

Father Crookston introduced D. C. Knoles from the Foundation Board of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Mr. Knoles gave an informative presentation about the workings of the Diocese Foundation and how an endowment plan can be established through the foundation. There is an interest in the parish to establish a Saint Rose Endowment Plan that may possibly be managed by the Diocese Foundation. Mr. Knoles will send samples of endowment agreements to Father Crookston in the near future for the council to peruse.

Committee Reports

Liturgy

Sue Cossitor reported the following:

- The Children's Choir for the 5:00 PM Christmas Mass now has increased to thirty-two members. Details are being worked out for the Children's Choir to solo possibly after communion at the altar front.

Father Crookston reported the following:

- The Audio Enhancement Task Force is still waiting to receive suggestions and recommendations from an architect and an acoustician regarding a new sound system for the church.

Education

Diane Gormley reported the following for Pat Ronan:

- A Thanksgiving food collection was gathered for the St. Vincent De Paul Society.
- The Oxfam Hunger Banquet was a huge success. About 250 meals were served and several hundreds of dollars were raised for Oxfam America and Sister Paula's soup kitchen.
- The annual Christmas Toy Drive for Sister Paula's soup kitchen is in progress and will end December 17th. Toys or small gifts of no more than \$20.00 are being collected for this annual project that Sister Paula and St. Rose School started more than 12 years ago.
- The Student Council officers will go Christmas shopping for the "Adopted Family" project. The project is done in conjunction with diocesan Social Services.
- Lenora Irwin requested that K-8 students make Christmas cards for prisoners. The students will be making 300 Christmas cards.
- During Advent the entire school gathers each morning for prayer and the lighting of the Advent wreath.
- The school Christmas program *Miracle on Bethlehem Street* will be on Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 PM in the parish center. All parishioners and friends are welcome to attend.
- A special school Mass will be held to support students and their families who have a parent or relative serving in the military.
- Christmas vacation begins December 22nd. Students return to school January 3rd.
- Catholic Schools Week is January 30th through February 4th. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith in Every Student." The Saturday evening Mass on January 29th will be a "school" Mass.

Catechesis: Vi Bettwy reported the following:

- The Catechesis Council met November 1st at 7:00 PM in the computer room.
- Religious Education reported that Baptism retreat was held for the ninth graders along with their parents on October 31st. There were three retreats scheduled for November. The 11th grade would be attending an all day retreat at Laurel Lodge. All catechists were reminded that Penance services would be held during Advent for the students. They were also reminded to take the students to the Ministries Fair. No classes were held on November 28th due to the holiday.
- "Operation Outreach" with Kentucky has begun.
- Religious Education Mass was Sunday, November 14th with the students participating in the ministries.

- Father Spishak is conducting training classes for Marriage Preparation. Four new couples are participating.
- Cathy Damiano has resigned as Head of Youth Ministry citing a full agenda and lack of time to do justice to the program.
- Father Spishak spoke of the planned trip to the Carmelite Monastery, the Basilica and the Chapel House.
- Father Crookston is looking for additional altar servers among the 4th graders and the upper classes.
- The RCIA has three members who received the Rite of Welcoming on November 7th. They were "signed" and were given the gospels. The three members will be admitted to full communion during the Easter Season.
- Tenth and Eleventh grade students are participating in the Gloria Gates Foundation.
- Catechesis Council will meet Monday night, December 6, 2004 at 7:00 PM in the computer room.

Finance

Stewardship Renewal: Joe and Patty Fromknecht presented the Ministry Fair final report to the council. Their report indicated that the overall opinion expressed of the Ministry Fair has been more than positive. Set goals were accomplished and an approximate 28% increase has occurred in the involvement in the ministries. The successful goals are:

1. Identify what Stewardship and Ministry are and how parishioners can incorporate them both into their daily lives.
2. Identify and make known to the parishioners all the various Parish Ministries available at Saint Rose.
3. Identify the needs of the parishioners we serve and those within our boundless reach and offer a helping hand to those who didn't know we were here.
4. Increase the active membership within the various Lay Ministries at our Parish.

Please note the Parish Council Ministry Fair Report is attached for each council member's file.

Maintenance

George Baker reported that the church's outside Christmas lights will be hung in the very near future. George also reported that he will be working on the pews in the church.

Family Life/Activities

Father Crookston reported that Father Spishak has selected a directory publisher for the parish pictorial directory. The company will be at St. Rose for three weeks in February. Scheduled appointments will occur Monday through Friday from 3:00 PM until 9:00 PM and Saturday, 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Father Spishak will be forming committees to help with the project.

Social Justice

The Grocery Bag Project was a tremendous success.

Old Business

Father Crookston asked the council to review the Appreciative Inquiry Action Plan and determine two things: (1) What "percolates" to the top? And (2) What social activities should be considered?

New Business

There was no new business.

Pastor's Comments

Father Crookston stated that two openings have occurred on the council. He asked members to bring names to the next meeting for nomination. Also, Father will be announcing to the parish members that openings have occurred and replacements are needed.

Schedule of Meetings

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

Next Meeting's Opening Prayers

George Baker will give the next meeting's opening prayer.

Closing Prayer

Father Crookston gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Judy Rossi

The Third Sunday of Advent

Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

Grant us patience, Lord,
for our waiting time.
We lose ourselves so easily in decorations,
ribbons, wrapping,
candles, and food
that we forget
the one for whom we wait.

It is you.

You came as a child
just like us
that we might come to God
just like you.

You **will come again**
to bring **all people home to heaven,**
and **peace with justice**
at last will fill the earth. Amen.



Sunday, December 12, 2004

Gaudete Sunday

Today is Gaudete Sunday. The word is Latin for "rejoice" and is the first word of the opening prayer of the liturgy. Advent purple is often softened with rose or pink in church decorations or vestments, and the third candle on the Advent wreath is pink. The feeling of joy and expectation is expressed in the readings. Isaiah envisions a glorious day when deserts will bloom and mourning will cease (5:7-10). James counsels patience for the people who await such a glorious day (35:1-6a, 10). (Patience might also be the watchword for children and adults eagerly anticipating Christmas.) The question of John's disciples, though, strikes at the heart of our expectation: "Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-11). Jesus points to the signs all around them, both the miracles of healing and the wonderful reality of the Good News proclaimed to the poor.

Is Jesus the one we have been waiting for? The answer to our question comes in the signs around us as well. We know Christ has come when we see people reaching out to friends and strangers not just at Christmas but during the whole year. We know Christ is present in our parishes—in those who come to the eucharistic table each week and in faithful people everywhere. We know Christ is near in the small and large initiatives for peace and justice that happen every day in the world. We celebrate the coming of Christ into the world each Advent and Christmas season; at the same time, we wait for Christ to come again and draw all things to himself. We rejoice because Christ is already here. We rejoice because he will come again.

This Week at Home

Monday, December 13

Saint Lucy's Day

Lucy was a young girl who died for her faith in early Christian times. Her name means "light" and she is the patron saint of the blind. Her feast comes during the darkest time of the year. Lucy is often pictured wearing a crown of lit candles; in some countries people celebrate by lighting many candles at a festive meal. Pray today: "Saint Lucy, we may not suffer as you did, but we are called to let the light of our Christian faith shine in our daily lives. Pray for us, that we may have such courage!"

Tuesday, December 14

Patience for Growing Things

As a way of remembering patience in this season, plant a seed in a pot and put it in a place that you see every day (for example, the kitchen windowsill). Keep the soil watered and make sure the pot sits in the light. By Christmas, a small plant will be pushing its way up through the soil, reminding us how we grow when Jesus comes into our lives.

Wednesday, December 15

Remembering All God's People

Coming as it does in the middle of the week, Wednesday is often considered the hardest day to get through. On this Advent Wednesday, remember teenagers living in group facilities like the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in Chicago. These young people are often neglected at Christmas because many gift campaigns are for younger children. Purchase gift certificates to coffee shops or local stores or items like bubble bath or clothing for an older child and donate them to your local teen home.

Thursday, December 16

God's Faithful Love

God's promise of love and peace that lasts forever forms the basis of Isaiah's prophecy today. We think of mountains as solid and stable. Science and nature, however, teach us that mountains grow and erode. They can be split by earthquakes and volcanic explosions or gutted by mudslides and avalanches. When that happens, it is awesome and fearful for those who see it and for those affected. God promises us that no matter what happens, His love will never leave or falter. It is a wonderful model for human love. Today, make sure your family knows that you love them.

Friday, December 17

Moving toward Christmas

As a way of helping young children get in the spirit of waiting for Christmas, pick one figure of your nativity scene (a donkey, sheep, or shepherd) and place it a little distance from the scene itself. Each day between now

and Christmas ask your child to move it a little closer to the stable until finally the figure enters the scene on Christmas eve.

Saturday, December 18

The Other Story of Christmas

Read Matthew's version of the Christmas story out loud with your family (1:18-25). Notice how simply it is told. The angel appears to Joseph here and tells him to name the baby Jesus. The prophet Isaiah, though, talks about another symbolic name, *Emmanuel*, and tells us that it means "God with us." Sometimes we see God in other people, in beautiful sunsets or animals, and in the feeling of peace or joy we get when we have done something good. With your family, talk about the ways in which you have experienced "God with us" even today.

