

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun Dec 19	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	9:15-10:15 AM Religious Ed. Gr. K-9
	10:30 AM <i>Interpreted Mass for the Deaf</i>
	6:30-8:00 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 10
Mon Dec 20	7:00 PM Parish Penance Service
Tues Dec 21	6:10 PM Bingo
Wed Dec 22	5:45-6:30 PM Pro-Life Rosary
	6:30 PM 8:15 Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM 10:30 Choir Rehearsal
Thurs Dec 23	9:00-11:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration
Sun Dec 26	HOLY FAMILY
	10:30 AM <i>Interpreted Mass for the Deaf</i>



Mass Intentions

Monday, Dec. 20

8:30 a.m. †Sheldon Claar (*Wife & Children*)

Tuesday, Dec. 21 St. Peter Canisius

8:30 a.m. †Daniel Mirabella (*Wife & Family*)

Wednesday, Dec. 22

8:30 a.m. †Robert Reilly (*Wife & Family*)

Thursday, Dec. 23

8:30 a.m. †Stephen Donnelly (*Family*)

Friday, Dec. 24 Vigil of Christmas

8:30 a.m. †Luigi Ventura (*M/M E. Gooderham*)
5:00 p.m. †David Trexler (*Joshua, Acacia, Zachary & Noah*)
7:30 p.m. †Augusta & Nick Orsena (*Family*)
Mid-Night †Rose & George Dente (*Daughter, Juliet Fiore*)

Saturday, Dec. 25 The Birth of Our Lord (Christmas)

8:30 a.m. †Dorothy & Frank Skupien (*Family*)
10:30 a.m. †Michael Savino & Diane Stasky (*Olive Savino, Jamie & Tina*)

Sunday, Dec. 26 HOLY FAMILY

7:00 a.m. †Clarence S. Adams (*Francis & Margaret Adams*)
8:15 a.m. †John Crum (*Ken & Kate Hofer*)
10:30 a.m. †Alma Hooper (*M/M William Murray*)
12 NOON Mass For The People

PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING -Dec. 11-12 2004

Regular	\$8952.71	Christmas	\$ 338.50
Capital Campaign	\$ 230.00	Rose	\$ 156.79
Thanksgiving	\$ 20.00	Rel.Retirement	\$ 328.00
Initial	\$ 9.00	Sol. of Mary	\$ 15.00
Immac. Conception	\$ 650.25	Candles	\$ 15.00
Altar & Rosary	\$ 10.00		
Christmas Flowers	\$ 481.00	Total	\$11,206.25

MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEK DEC. 20-26

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Brittany Spayd, Eugene Ehredt
7:30 p.m. Billy Beard, Maggie McCreery

MID NIGHT MASS: Thomas Myers, Jeffrey Karl

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 2004
8:30 a.m. Volunteers
10:30 a.m. David Horvath, Jillian Lemme
Altar Servers for December 26, 2004
7:00 a.m. Maggie McCreery
8:15 a.m. Tim Link, Tai Irwin, Jonathan Smith
10:30 a.m. Ethan Dombrowski, Alyssa Lower, Erica Wiley
12 Noon: Nicole Bagley, Josef Maier

Eucharistic Ministers for December 24, 2004

VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS 5:00 p.m.
B. Shoenfelt, S. Baker, J. Shoenfelt, J. Frena, G. Baker, T.Goss., D. Fraundorfer

VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS 7:30 p.m.

M. Wiley, B. Bartley, B. Spinazzola, D. Shrift
MIDNIGHT MASS B. Altiero, D. Altiero, L. Altiero
CHRISTMAS DAY, 8:30 a.m. G. Bettwy, R. Novack
CHRISTMAS DAY, 10:30 a.m. C. Housum, J. Scarfone, J. Frena
R. Friedenberger, K. Mrdjenovich
Lectors for December 24, 2004

VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS 5:00 p.m.

Maria Spayd, Frances Hesser
VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS 7:30 p.m.

Linda Wolf, Jean Chirdon

MIDNIGHT MASS Dave Karl, Laverne Previte

CHRISTMAS DAY, 8:30 a.m. Vi Bettwy, Patrick Labriola

CHRISTMAS DAY, 10:30 a.m. Michael Nazaruk

Eucharistic Ministers for December 26, 2004

7:00 a.m. G. Miller, R. Kline, R. Fox

8:15 a.m. D. Smith, A. Ansman, D. Cree, R.M. Fochler, B. Spinazzola

10:30 a.m. K. Ansman, T. Heiss, E. Salvi, B. Gentile, M. Salvi

12 Noon: R. Fiore, R. Skupien, C. Eberhart

Lectors for December 26, 2004

7:00 a.m. John Kenny

8:15 a.m. Frank Fochler, Joseph Campbell

10:30 a.m. Tony Labriola, Dave Karl

12 Noon Jim Lane

FROM OUR PASTOR

RRECONCILIATION SERVICES Seventeen priests will be here for our Advent Penance Service, Monday, December 20, at 7:00 P.M. Another opportunity for reconciliation is St. Mary's Altoona, December 19, 5:00 P.M.

CATHOLICS, COME HOME 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. Our Catholics, Come Home Team invites those who know someone who wants to return to the church to attend a informative "Friends and Family" meeting scheduled January 3, 7 P.M. The sessions for the returning Catholics are 7:00 P.M. January 17 and 31. All the sessions will gather in the church foyer.

EXQUISITE MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS The children's choir is singing at the 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass. They will provide Christmas music starting at 4:30. Our combined adult choirs accompanied by wind, brass, and percussion will offer their midnight mass prelude beginning at 11:30 pm Christmas Eve.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PLEASE NOTE: No evening Mass on Christmas Day

ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas vacation is from Wednesday, Dec. 22 until Jan. 3. Tuesday, Dec. 21 is a FULL day.

The St. Rose School family extends our sincerest wishes for a joyous Christmas and wonderful New Year.

OFFERTORY PRESENTERS

Dec. 24	5:00 p.m.	Pat Trexler & Family
	7:30 p.m.	Ushers Pick
	12 Mid-night	Ushers Pick
Dec. 25	8:30 p.m.	Mary Lou Moffitt & Ron Skupien
	10:30 p.m.	Olive Savino & Granddaughters

OFFERTORY PRESENTERS

Dec. 26	7:00 a.m.	Francis Adams & Jack Corle
	8:15 a.m.	John & Darlene Crum & Family
	10:30 a.m.	Joe & Gigi Campbell & Family
	12 Noon	Ushers Pick

FAMILY CALENDAR We thank Joseph Stevens for sponsoring the Family Life Office's Family Calendar 2005. The calendar's suggestions of daily family activities enhance the months and liturgical seasons of the new year. Give your imagination free range to savor each day and record events that your family may revisit in the years to come



In Our Parish

CANDLES: For the Men & Women in the Military who are serving our Country by the Christian Mothers.

"IN DEFENSE OF LIFE"

The Savior whose birth we anticipate was never anything less than true God and true man – from the moment of conception through birth to crucifixion and finally resurrection. Christ's passage through each stage of human life that we all pass through sanctifies each stage and requires us to respect life in all stages.

PRAYER CORNER

PRAYER FOR FAITH

Jesus, Your faith was in the Heavenly Father,
Kindly grant me the richness of such faith,
To embrace Your Father as my true provider,
Having staunch belief on His eminent powers
And to remain loyal to Him until my last days.
Amen.

Families and the Gospel

December 19

Matthew 1:18-24

Listening is the key word in today's gospel. Joseph listened to God in a dream and "took Mary as his wife"; Mary listened to God and was "with child". They were selected because they were not afraid to listen to God. Are you listening to God in your family? What is God calling you to be and do?

Readings for the Week of December 19, 2004

Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Ps 128;
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Dr. Zane Gates will be signing his new Book Macalaster Project on Sunday, December 19 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!

GARVEY MANOR

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist pushing residents in wheelchairs to and from activities and the beauty shop (in house). Also, if anyone is interested in training for our Dinning Ministry to assist residents with their meal we would appreciate your time. Volunteers are a precious gift and the reward is the good feeling received in your heart from helping those in need. If you are interested in the ministry of giving your time to help those in need, please call Debbie Dorazio at 695-5571 ext. 4009 weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Experience Enchanting Spain

The music ministry of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church is sponsoring a 9-day tour of Mallorca Spain on April 18-26, 2005. All-inclusive price \$1,600.00. For more information, please call Robert Little at 942-8501.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS 4th Sunday of Advent

Just when Joseph was about to quietly end his engagement to Mary, he had a change of heart (a conversion no less!) and carried out God's will throughout his life. When was the last time you allowed God to change your plans in order to fulfill His?

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.

REMINDER TO MINISTERS: Please call the rectory today and RSVP for the Ministries dinner.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Good and gracious God,
your growing light is filling up the world.
We feel your presence grow within us.
We wait with longing for your appearance
among us,
for the peace you bring to all people.

In these last days before Christmas,
help us to make a worthy place within us
where you may dwell.

Let us welcome you
by welcoming others in whom you dwell.

We wait with open hearts
for your coming.

Come, Lord Jesus, into this broken and
suffering world,
for you alone can make us whole. Amen.



Sunday, December 19, 2004

Called to Belong to Jesus

The lighting of the fourth candle on the Advent wreath suggests that we are near the completion of our waiting period. The candles are at different heights just as we are at different stages of expectation. The last week is one of the hardest because it seems as if Christmas will never arrive. As a way of emphasizing this, we read the same Gospel, Matthew's version of the Christmas story, which we heard yesterday (1:18–25). Paul tells us we are called to belong to Jesus, even that we are called to be holy (Romans 1:1–7). When we are waiting so eagerly, it is difficult to think about being holy, and yet we are given the opportunity to be just that every day.

To be holy is to be set apart for God's use. Paul tells us that God has plans for us. When we use the gifts we have been given, God's presence becomes known in the world. When we reach out with love and care to another, that person also sees God's love and care. The more we become part of God's plan, the more fully God is seen. That is the significance of the incarnation. God is with us and in us and we grow more fully into God. Set yourself apart for God today by praying with the community at Mass and by looking for a "random act of kindness" that you might do for a family member, friend, or stranger.

This Week at Home

Monday, December 20

The Great O Antiphons

Beginning with evening prayer (vespers) on December 17 and ending with vespers on December 23, the great "O Antiphons" frame the Magnificat in the daily Office of the Church. These special petitions to Jesus to come among us are so-named because they begin with the exclamation "O." They form the basis of our traditional song "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." This evening the prayer begins, "O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom." Find the appropriate verse of the song and sing it for prayer this evening.

Tuesday, December 21

The Winter Solstice

Traditionally the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere, December 21, marks the winter solstice (a word that means "standing-still sun"). At this time of the year the sun is at its lowest arc in the sky and the daylight hours are the fewest. After today, the days get longer until mid-June. About sixteen hundred years ago, the feast of Christmas was transplanted to the time of the winter solstice as a way of emphasizing the coming of Christ, who is the light of the world. Besides lighting the candles of the Advent wreath today, light a special solstice candle to remind yourself and your family of the coming birth.

Wednesday, December 22

Preparing the House

It is time to finish baking and wrapping presents. We are in the last phase of cleaning before guests arrive and dinner is served. It is the last phase of the preparation of our hearts as well. While the cleaning and dusting are taking place, take time to say this little prayer over and over: "Lord Jesus, come into my heart as you came into the world long ago." Think of it as your welcome gift to God.

Thursday, December 23

The Lord Whom We Seek

"And suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek. . . ." Malachi's prophecy today begs the question: "Whom do we seek?" (3:1-4, 23-24). Is it the baby of the Christmas story, someone who will make everything right and just, someone who will grant



all our wishes, or someone else altogether? Would we have recognized Jesus as he appears in the Gospels? We may not know the answers to these questions, but we can spend a few minutes as a family thinking about what we would like God to do for us and for the world. Then we can spend a few more minutes thinking about what God has done for us already.

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

For many people Christmas eve is a time for special dinners, special church services, special foods. Midnight Mass (or its equivalent in your church) is a commonly observed tradition signaling to children a special sign of maturity. Imagine that you had to explain all the signs and symbols of Christmas to someone who had never heard of it. What would you say about the tree, the presents, the nativity scene, or the church services? If you would like some simple explanations of customs, log on to people.howstuffworks.com/christmas20.htm.

Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day

At last it's here--the day for which we have prepared for four weeks. In the midst of angelic songs and the calls to "Come, all ye faithful," we pause to remember that birth takes a long time, and the impact of this birth will not be felt fully until the end of time. Meanwhile, we relish the fact that people seem a little calmer, families love each other a little more, and peace comes among us for a few hours. Take time today to call family members far away or friends whom you have not seen in awhile to wish them peace this season and throughout the year.