

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun Nov 27	First Sunday of Advent	
	10:30 AM	<i>Interpreted Mass for the Deaf</i>
Tues Nov 29	6:10 PM	Bingo
Wed Nov 30	5:45-6:30 PM	Pro-Life Rosary
	7:00-8:00 PM	Parents Mtg. First Penance
	6:30 PM	8:15 Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	10:30 Choir Rehearsal
Thurs Dec 1	9:00-11:20 AM	Eucharistic Adoration
Fri Dec 2	6:10 PM	Bingo
Sat Dec 3	9:30-10:30 AM	Children's Choir
Sun Dec 4	Second 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 & 11



Mass Intentions

Monday, Nov. 28

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

Tuesday, Nov. 29

8:30 a.m. † Kyle Holtz (*Eleanor Hazlet*)

Wednesday, Nov. 30

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

Thursday, Dec. 1

8:30 a.m. † Orlando DeCriscio (*Cliff & Sandi Beaudoin*)

Friday, Dec. 2

8:30 a.m. † James McKeon (*Family*)

Saturday, Dec. 3 St. Francis Xavier

8:30 a.m. † Helen Sutton (*Al & Dorothy Vigliotti*)

5:30 p.m. † John & Mary Schneider (*Pauline Hughes*)

Sunday, Dec. 4 Second Sunday of Advent

7:00 a.m. † Barbara (Beiswenger) Sullivan (*M/M Paul Beiswenger*)

8:15 a.m. † Jane C. Nagle (*Carl & Ann Bennett*)

10:30 a.m. † Pasquale & Frieda Gentile (*Gregg & Barbara Gentile*)

12 NOON Mass For The People

OFFERTORY PRESENTERS

Dec. 3	5:30 p.m.	Jeff & Mary Shultz
Dec. 4	7:00 a.m.	Bernard Beiswenger
	8:15 a.m.	Pat & Linda Nagle & Family
	10:30 a.m.	Volunteers
	12 Noon	Joe & Heather Macharola & Family

MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEK

Altar Servers for December 3-4, 2005

Saturday, December 3, 2005

5:30 p.m. Justine Shultz, Joshua Shultz, Megan Shultz

Sunday, December 4, 2005

7:00 a.m. Julie Fox

8:15 a.m. Joshua Kelley, Tessa Donnelly, Sean Dillon

10:30 a.m. Holly Mercer, Ethan Dombrowski, Hanna Mercer

12 Noon Mark Wasicki, Nicole Bagley, Polly Macharola

Eucharistic Ministers for December 3-4, 2005

5:30 p.m. G. Bettwy, J. Brown, J. Shoenfelt, B. Bartley, K. McGraw

7:00 a.m. R.M. Fochler, R. Fox, D. Leahey

8:15 a.m. S. Tirone, B. Spinazzola, T. Heiss, D. Smith, R. Novack

10:30 a.m. M. Kooman, D. Fraundorfer, C. Rickens, P. Fromknecht, Carole Housum

12 Noon J. Frena R. Skupien

Lectors for December 3-4, 2005

5:30 p.m. Frances Hesser, Bea Shoenfelt

7:00 a.m. Frank Fochler, Ray Kline

8:15 a.m. Randy Donnelly, Patrick Labriola

10:30 a.m. Barbara Kooman, Tim Skarada

12 Noon Jim Lane

FROM OUR PASTOR

AREA RECONCILIATION SERVICES These opportunities exist for your celebration the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the Birth of Our Lord. These are: St. Mary's, Hollidaysburg -- Sunday, December 11, 4:00 PM; Saint John's -- Monday, December 12, 6:30 P.M.; Cathedral -- Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 P.M.; Sacred Heart -- Thursday, December 15, 5:30 PM; Our Lady of Lourdes -- Friday, December 16, 5:30 PM. Our parish reconciliation service is Monday, December 19, 6:30 P.M. The priests also will hear individual confessions following the 8:30 A.M. Mass Monday, December 19, Tuesday, December 20, and Wednesday, December 21.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL NEWS

- There is no school on Monday, Nov. 28th.
- Wednesday, Nov. 30th is the 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 Thursday, Dec. 15. You may give your donation to any St. Rose School student or bring it to the school office. We would appreciate your support.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS NEWS

Christian Mothers will be having their annual Christmas Party on Dec. 12th at Bishop Guilfoyle High School following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Reservations only. Cost is \$3.00 for dinner and entertainment. Sign up sheet in foyer. There will be no exchange gifts but an optional offering will be taken for our armed forces packages to be sent at a later date. Car pooling available after Mass.

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.

The Angel Tree will be shared with our Homebound members of St. Rose. Untie the Ornament, place the Ornament on the tree and take the card. Please visit the person whose name is on the card during the Advent season. Maybe take a small gift to the Shut-in. Members of the Prayer Chain will be in the foyer after Mass to help you.

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. 18. Your memorial 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 Toby & Joyce Kjarsgaard,

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Helen Sanders whom we honored with Christian Burial during the past week. May God give comfort to her family.

FIRST PENANCE

There will be a Parent Meeting on November 30, 2005. This meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and last until 8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Thank You to Fr. Spishak and William Beard Sr. for their hard work on our new literature alcove. We appreciate your time and talent.

"IN DEFENSE OF LIFE"

The American Association of People with Disabilities believes that "disability is a natural part of the human experience." Thus, they are concerned that when prenatal diagnosis reveals a baby is less than perfect, parents will "experience pressures to terminate their pregnancies from medical professionals and insurers." This is a legitimate worry given that in America more than 80% of the babies diagnosed prenatally with Down syndrome are aborted. George Will, "Toward a society free of disabilities, **San Diego Union Tribune**, 4/14/05.

PROJECT RACHEL- For women and men who have been involved in abortions: "The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace...you will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost." Pope John Paul II. Contact Project Rachel 814-884-8000. All calls are confidential!

Adult Enrichment Class will be held on December 4, 2005 Time: 9:20-10:20 a.m. Topic: Parenting Tools to prepare teens for today's challenges. Presenter: Dennis George, Catholic Social Services.

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL

November 27

Mk 13:33-37

We rush through our busy day, distracted by all we must do and at night we relax in the distraction of TV. Today's gospel tells us to "Be watchful and alert" because distractions prevent us from discovering the Lord's loving presence rushing through our busy day with us. Expect to find the Lord and you will.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION SCHEDULE FOR 2005

Dec. 2, 2005 at Our Lady of Lourdes. St. Rose of Lima's special time is from 11:00-12:00 p.m. If you have questions concerning Nocturnal Adoration please call: Janette DiGiacobbe at 946-4342 or John Brown at 944-3436.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you would like Our Prayer Chain to pray for your intentions, please call Bernice Shoenfelt at 942-5659.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT

During the spring of 2005, an attempt was made to start a new Christian Family Movement (CFM) group through St. Rose of Lima Parish. This fall, that attempt became successful, and on Friday, October 28, 2005, the new group had its second successful meeting.

Currently, ten couples comprise the group. Ideally, groups should consist of six or seven couples. The current group of ten is seeking an additional 2 to 4 couples who would be willing to join CFM. With the addition of the new couples, the current CFM group of ten would split into two formal, active groups of six or seven.

The current range of age of group members is from the mid twenties to the early fifties. So, couples of all ages who might be interested are welcomed. With the addition of the new couples, the intent would be to split the current group into two separate groups where the age ranges would be similar.

Couples meet once a month in each other's homes for study and conversation followed by simple refreshments. The meetings run monthly from September through May.

CFM is for couples who want a place to share values and faith and to experience Jesus in their lives and lives of their families. CFM makes lasting friends, helps couples to stay married, supports family life, and helps members to grow in faith.

Interested couples should contact Father Spishak at the Rectory

LITURGICAL REFLECTION...

This liturgical year the Church observes four full weeks of Advent. Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is a period of devout and joyful expectations. The weekdays from December 17th to December 24th inclusive serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's birth.

GARVEY MANOR

Volunteers are always a blessing and your time can be flexible. Two hours a week can make a big difference for our residents, 3 or 4 hours is even better. The main area that we need volunteers is in our activities department, although we have other areas of need also. Volunteers receive a free lunch, snack and take home salad. Mostly they receive the love and joy from helping others. Also any students that are interested in volunteering for community service hours or just to help out are welcome to call. Students must be 12 years old and up to volunteer. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Anyone who would like to be a Pray partner for residents please call the same number and ask for Debbie Dorazio.

If you are interested call Garvey Manor at 695-5571 and ask for the Volunteer Department

NEWLY PRINTED COOKBOOK: Over 200 recipes. \$7.50 each plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling. Saint Mary Church, 101 West High Street, Kittanning, Pa. 16201. Available at the rectory office.

ONE WEEK CLASSES AT SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY

Is your son or daughter coming home to the Laurel Highlands during semester break? If so, (s)he may be interested in the one-week semester interim classes offered at Saint Francis University, January 2-6 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. What a great way to get caught up with credits and/or ease the spring semester course load! The 3-credit courses are: THTR 202-Studies in Drama and ENGL 104-Writing About Literature. Also being offered during our Spring break. February 27 to March 3 from 9:30-4:30 p.m, are ECON 102-Principles of Economics II and PHIL 205-Discovering Philosophy. Details can be found at: www.francis.edu/ContinuingEd. While you're visiting the website, check out the summer offerings which include Scuba Diving, Song Writing, Hand Drumming, International trips and more. In addition to the wide variety of classes, the course formats are diverse enough to meet the needs of an assortment of schedules. For more information contact the Saint Francis Office of Continuing Education at 814-472-3012 or oce@francis.edu.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, December 4,
2005- 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Adults \$4.00 –
Children \$2.00 Serving in the School Cafeteria.

Become a Secular Franciscan by observing the
Gospel and following the example of St. Francis
who made Christ the inspiration and center of his
life with God and people.

If you are married, or single, and you feel the call
from God to embrace a Franciscan life-style, call
us today to learn more: 942-8501

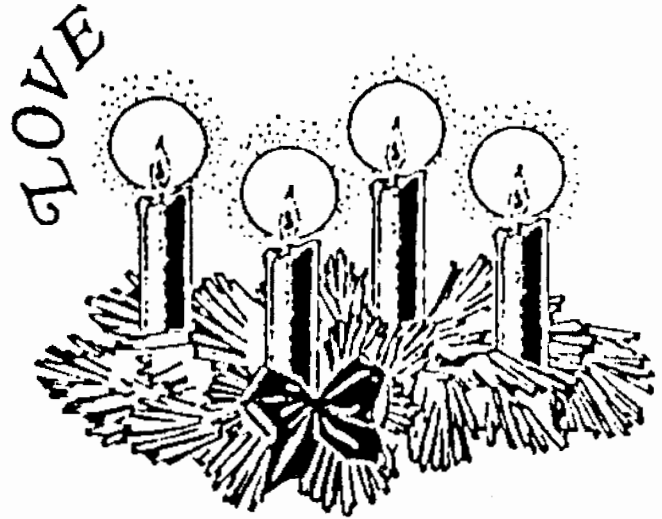
STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

1st Sunday in Advent

Like the servants in today's Gospel, we have been
left alone by the Master to care for all creation. As
Christian stewards, we give thanks for the work
God has entrusted to us.

FOUNDATION NOTES...

The Foundation for the Diocese of Altoona-
Johnstown recently completed its annual
distribution to beneficiaries. More than \$275,000
was distributed to support Catholic life in our
region, including funding for education,
scholarships, diocesan ministries and services,
parishes and cemeteries. The independent
Foundation is a separate nonprofit organization
from the Diocese with a goal of helping Catholics
in our region with their charitable giving. Learn
more at www.fdtndioceseaj.org.



The Tradition of St. Nicholas:

Saint Nicholas is the national saint of Russia and Greece and churches named after him number in the thousands – more than 400 in Great Britain alone. He is the patron saint of judges, murderers, pawnbrokers, thieves, merchants, paupers, scholars, sailors, bakers, travelers, maidens and poor children and is known as the friend and protector of all those in trouble.

Saint Nicholas was born in the Middle East about 350 miles northwest of Bethlehem in the fourth century. He grew up to become the bishop of Myra (now Kale), his hometown is near the coast of what is now Turkey. Legends tell of his love for children, his kindness and the miracles he brought about.

Perhaps the most famous story of all tells how he helped three unfortunate young women who all had suitors but had no dowries because their father, a poor nobleman, couldn't raise the money. So they could not marry,

Now Bishop Nicholas was a shy man and did not like to give money directly, so he thought of a way to give it anonymously. When the first daughter was ready to marry, the good bishop tossed a bag of gold into the house at night. Later, when the second daughter prepared to marry, she too received a mysterious bag of gold. When the third daughter prepared to marry, the poor nobleman was determined to find out who had been so generous. So he kept watch and saw the bishop drop another bag of gold into the house. It has been said that Saint Nicholas climbed on the roof and dropped the third bag of gold down the chimney where it landed in a stocking hung to dry, giving us a reason to hang Christmas stockings today. When the father saw what had happened, Nicholas begged him to keep the secret, but, of course, the news got out. From then on, whenever anyone received an unexpected gift, they thanked Nicholas.

Six hundred years later, the Russian Emperor Vladimir visited Constantinople and heard the wonderful stories about Bishop Nicholas and decided to make him the patron saint of Russia. The stories even spread to the Laplands – the people of the reindeer sleighs.

The anniversary of Nicholas' death, December 6, is so close to Christmas that, in many countries, the two merged. But in Germany and in the Netherlands, the two remain separate.

Through the centuries the shrine to Saint Nicholas at the Basilica of Saint Nicholas in Bari has been visited by many and has experienced miracles. Those who visit offer prayers to Saint Nicholas, who was known to have had such care for all who are needy, whether in mind or body.

Christmas Tree Blessing:

Opening song: All sing a verse or two of a Christmas hymn or carol.

Reading: A gospel passage may be read: Luke 2:1-14; Luke 2:15-20; Luke 2:16-20; Luke 2:25-32; John 1:1-5, 9-14).

Silent Prayer: The group pauses for a moment of silent reflection on God's love for us.

Blessing: all stand – if desired, with hands outstretched in prayer – for the blessing:

All glory and praise to you, heavenly Father,
we thank you for sending us your Son, Jesus,
to be our brother.

Bless us as we gather here,
and bless our Christmas tree.
Let its lights remind us of Jesus,
who came to be the light of the world
and to save us from sin.

Father, we love you,
and we praise you through Christ our Lord.

(All answer): Amen.