

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Sun Dec 18</b>   | <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>                |
|                     | 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        |
| <b>Mon Dec 19</b>   | 6:30 PM Parish Penance Service                |
| <b>Tues Dec 20</b>  | 6:10 PM Bingo                                 |
| <b>Wed Dec 21</b>   | 5:45-6:30 PM Pro-Life Rosary                  |
|                     | 7:00-9:30 PM Combined Choir Rehearsal         |
| <b>Thurs Dec 22</b> | 9:00-11:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration           |
| <b>Sun Dec 25</b>   | The Birth of Our Lord (Christmas)             |



**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, Dec. 19**

8:30 a.m. † James Meintel (*Family*)

**Tuesday, Dec. 20**

8:30 a.m. † Kathleen Charlton (*Barbara & Gene Stoltz*)

**Wednesday, Dec. 21 St. Peter Canisius**

8:30 a.m. † John Crum (*James Trexler Family*)

**Thursday, Dec. 22**

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

**Friday, Dec. 23 St. John of Kanty**

8:30 a.m. † Patsy & Florence Labriola (*Dave & Dollie Berger*)

**Saturday, Dec. 24 Vigil of Christmas**

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

5:00 p.m. † Augusta & Nick Orsena (*Family*)

7:30 p.m. † David R. Trexler Sr. (*Grandchildren, Josh, Acacia, Zach, Noah & Caleb*)

Mid-Night † Rose & George Dente (*Daughter, Juliet Fiore*)

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

8:30 a.m. † Antonio & Maria Maniglia (*Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Maniglia*)

10:30 a.m. † Mike Savino Sr. & Diane Stasky (*Olive Savino & Tina & Jamie*)

**PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING Dec. 10-11, 2005**

|                       |             |                 |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Regular               | \$12,128.51 | Christmas       | \$ 477.90   |
| Capital Campaign      | \$ 198.00   | Rose            | \$ 211.39   |
| Immaculate Conception | \$ 582.10   | Register        | \$ 50.00    |
| Thanksgiving          | \$ 17.00    | Mission Sun.    | \$ 200.00   |
| Peru                  | \$ 200.00   | All Saints      | \$ 5.00     |
| Stipend               | \$ 10.00    | Rel. Retirement | \$ 730.00   |
| Candles               | \$ 15.00    | Human Dev.      | \$ 205.00   |
| Christmas Flowers     | \$ 634.00   | Total           | \$15,663.90 |

**MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEK**

**VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 24**

5:00 p.m. Alex Baker, Kevin Condryn, Loretta Bobetich  
7:30 p.m. Jarod Brumbaugh, Taylor Brumbaugh, Maggie McCall, Molly McCall

**MIDNIGHT MASS:** Alex Askey, Jeff Karl, Erica Wiley

**CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 2005**

8:30 a.m. Jamie Novack, Tim Link  
10:30 a.m. Joshua, Megan, & Justine Shultz

**Eucharistic Ministers** for December 24--25, 2005

**VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS**

5:00 p.m. T. Goss, K. Irwin, G. Baker, J. Shoenfelt, K. Madariaga, B. Shoenfelt, K. McGraw, S. Baker

7:30 p.m. B. Bartley, B. Spinazzola, John Frena

**MIDNIGHT MASS:** S. Askey, M. Engelman, P. Engelman, J. Woomer, K. Woomer

**CHRISTMAS DAY: 8:30 a.m.** G. Bettwy, R. Novack, D. Cree

**CHRISTMAS DAY: 10:30 a.m.** E. Salvi, M. Salvi, D. Housum, C. Housum, J. Scarfone

**Lectors** for December 24-25, 2005

**VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS**

5:00 p.m. Joe Maschue, Pat Condryn, Chris Rickens

7:30 a.m. Michael Nazaruk, Linda Wolf

**MIDNIGHT MASS:** Laverne Previte, Pat Labriola

**CHRISTMAS DAY: 8:30 a.m.** Vi Bettwy

• **CHRISTMAS DAY: 10:30 a.m.** Chris Danison, Ken Haney

**FROM THE PASTOR**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Under the most capable direction of Bryce and Sue Cossitor and the talented contributions of nearly one hundred adults and children, our parish's Christmas presentation inspired and thrilled concert goers and participants. Voices and instrumentalists offered praise with the spoken word of the Lamb of God come to dwell among us. The customary and the graceful movement of angels, shepherds, and kings' retinue drew all to the manger home of the Holy Family. Resplendent refreshments enhanced the evening's delights. Blessings and Thanks to all created this worshipful memory.

**PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE** Our parish reconciliation service is Monday, December 19, 6:30 P.M. The parish priests also will hear individual confessions following the 8:30 A.M. Mass Monday, December 19, Tuesday, December 20, and Wednesday, December 21.

**OFFERTORY PRESENTERS**

|         |            |                                   |
|---------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dec. 24 | 5:00 p.m.  | Orsena Family                     |
|         | 7:30 p.m.  | Pat Trexler & Family              |
|         | Mid-Night  | Bob, Mary Ann & Julie Fox         |
| Dec. 25 | 8:30 a.m.  | Ruth & Jimmy Novack               |
|         | 10:30 a.m. | Olive Savino, Jamie & Tina Stasky |

### ST. ROSE SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas vacation is from Friday Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> until Tuesday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thursday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> is a FULL DAY.

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

### LOTTERY CALENDARS

St. Rose School Lottery Calendars are still available. They make great Christmas gifts! The cost is \$25.00. You may call the school office (942-7835) or contact any St. Rose School family if you would like to purchase a calendar.

**FAMILY CALENDAR** We thank Joseph Stevens for sponsoring the Family Life Calendar 2006. 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, Fritz & Mary Werkmeister by Toby & Joyce Kjarsgaard. Philomena R. Jones by Ron & Janet Brown, Kourtney Brown by Ron & Janet Brown.

### **BAPTISM**

Congratulations to Michael John Brown son of M/M Michael S. Brown who received the light of Christ in the Sacrament of Baptism last weekend.

**THANK YOU** to all parishioners who donated baked goods for our concert. Everything was delicious and greatly appreciated by those who attended and performed in the concert. A special thank you to George Baker, Mary Stoy, Ruth Miller, Greg Miller, Judy Lockard, Sonny Lockard, Ron Skupien, Michele Sanders and Kevin Kuhn for all your help with the refreshments.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Children's Choir will sing at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. The children will sing Christmas Music beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Our combined Adult Choirs with accompanying Wind, Brass and Percussion will offer a Music Prelude beginning at 11:30 p.m. for the Christmas Midnight Mass.

### "IN DEFENSE OF LIFE"

The world's best argument against abortion is the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, because it reveals the sacredness and dignity of every unborn child. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, John the Baptist, himself an unborn child, responded joyfully to the presence of his Savior. These marvelous events should fill us with the perseverance to defend vulnerable human life from abortion, abandonment and experimentation.

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

The Bishop Guilfoyle Ice Hockey Association will be sponsoring a "Parochial School Hockey Night", December 22, 2005 at Galactic Ice during the Bishop Guilfoyle Marauder vs Central Dragon game. All Parochial grade school students will be admitted free and those in attendance will also receive a free public skate pass. Admission for adults will be \$3.00. Game time is 7:50 p.m.

### **Liturgical Reflection...**

The fourth and final candle of the Advent wreath is lighted this week. This circular wreath with its four candles reminds us of God's eternal nature and the light Christ brings into our lives. The greenery of the wreath reminds us of the new life that only Christ can give. As the four candles shine brightly, let us prepare these final days of Advent for the coming of Jesus Christ into our lives. These are hectic days prior to the Christmas celebration. Make sure we take time to be spiritually prepared for this great feast.

### PRAYER CORNER

*THE O ANTIPHONS OF ADVENT* are 7 jewels of liturgical song, one for each day until Christmas Eve. They are:

12-18 *O WISDOM*, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: Come, and teach us the way of prudence.

12-19 *O LORD AND RULER* of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with outstretched arm.

12-20 *O ROOT OF JESSE*, who stand for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication: Come to deliver us, and tarry not.

12-21 *O KEY OF DAVID*, and Scepter of the House of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens: Come and bring forth the captive from his prison, he who sits in the shadow of death.

12-22 *O DAWN OF THE EAST*, brightness of the light eternal, and Sun of Justice: Come and enlighten them that sit in darkness.

12-23 *O KING OF THE GENTILES*, and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one: Come and deliver man, whom You formed out of the dust of the earth, we pray

12-24 *O EMMANUEL*, God with us, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior: Come to save us. O Lord our God.

### Families and the Gospel

December 18

Lk 1:26-38

Mary was confused by the angel's message, yet she trusted God. Confusion would be a constant companion to the Holy Family, all the way to the chaos of Calvary. Family life is confusing...that's Norman as we try to balance time, money and demands. Follow Mary's example: in the midst of confusion place your trust in God. The Lord is with you and "nothing is impossible with God." Believe it – live it!

### Protecting God's Children

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth requires that every parish and school in every diocese provide instruction to children and youth regarding a safe environment program. The instruction is to be age appropriate and must be offered to all children and youth. The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has selected the "Teaching Touching Safety" program to meet the requirements of the Charter. The program is not "sex education." It is a program which provides instruction on The Touching Rules, Identifying Safe and Unsafe Adults, Boundaries, Telling Someone you Trust, Grooming and No Secrets. This instruction provides our children with the tools they need to overcome the advances of someone who intends to do harm to them.

*Children & Youth Protection and Advocacy Office, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.*

### THE ART OF GIVING

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the *heart*: Love, kindness, joy, understanding, sympathy, tolerance, forgiveness.

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the *mind*: Ideas, dreams, purposes, ideals, principles, plans, projects, poetry.

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the *spirit*: Prayer, vision, beauty, aspiration, peace, faith.

We give of ourselves when we give the gift of words: Encouragement, inspiration, inspiration, guidance.

Emerson said it well: "Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of thyself"

From *The Art of living* by Wilfred A. Peterson  
Reprinted with permission from "Appleseeds"  
Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, TOR

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Advent

"After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call." (*To Be A Christian Steward*, USCCB, 1992.)

**GLORIA GATES MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

The children involved in the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation share some common needs such as new shoes, socks, warm gloves. Also, there are a few supplies that we just can't seem to get enough of and would like to ask you help. We need scotch tape, paper towels, liquid hand soap, sturdy dish cloths and towels, paper cups, plates and bowls, fruit juice, plastic spoons, dish detergent and large ziplock bags for organizing everything. If you can help, please drop needed supplies off at the Evergreen Manors Community Center or call Toni Bilik at 949-8838 to make arrangements. Thank You

**FOUNDATION NOTES**

The Foundation for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is an independent nonprofit organization that exists to provide supplemental financial resources for diocesan ministries and services and other Catholic causes in our region. A 17-person lay board of trustees, who live and work across the eight counties of the diocese, manages the Foundation and its assets. The Foundation-chartered in 1990 and now with assets of more than \$11 million – is committed to serving the parishes and parishioners of our region. For more information about the Foundation, phone 814-696-9514 or go on-line to the Foundation's web site at [www.fdtndioceseaj.org](http://www.fdtndioceseaj.org).

“No one ought to be rejected simply because he is different, weak or poor – after all, Jesus was all of these things.”

Pope John Paul II

**The Good of Goodwill**

**By Trudy Costa**

I have a choice: whenever I get my feelings hurt, or feel slighted or mistreated or taken for granted, I choose what to believe about the instigator and the situation. I can choose to assign the worst possible intentions, or, I can assume goodwill and imagine the best of intentions.

The fact is, we can only guess at the motivations behind another person's behavior. After all, I don't even know my own motivation half the time!

When we are upset, it's natural to assume the worst reason possible for someone's hurtful behavior. When we're calm and more distant from the event, we're much more likely to guess a positive intention. The truth is, if we choose to assume goodwill, we are much more likely to be correct.

It is relief not to carry the terrible burden of ill will. So do yourself and everyone around you a favor: assume goodwill! What have you got to lose?

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: The Angel Candle*

*Angels are God's messengers, who brought a message of peace. They announced the news of Christ's birth and filled the sky with singing and rejoicing. The wreath, all aglow, reminds us that our hearts should glow with the light of Christ*



Saint Rose of Lima  
Catholics Come Home  
5514 Roselawn Avenue Altoona, Pa 16602  
814.944.8509  
[frjded@stroselima.com](mailto:frjded@stroselima.com) [www.stroselima.com](http://www.stroselima.com)

Dear Watcher for Christ's Birth Who Prays Persons to Return to the Catholic Faith,

We are aware of nine reasons that may have caused a Catholic friend, neighbor, or family member to become inactive. Our hope is to stimulate your concern and creativity, and to persuade you to approach your friends and family members who are not practicing their faith. Sometimes the inactive Catholic voices one of these reasons to learn what you as an active Catholic knows about how to return to the church.

We have planned an information session for friends and family of inactive Catholics. This information session will happen early in the New Year (January 12, 7:00 P.M.). Members of our Catholics, Come Home Team will outline a helpful approach to your conversation with those we pray will one day return. Later in January the team will hold the first of two gatherings for returning Catholics (January 26, 7:00 P.M. and February 12, 1:30 P.M.). We invite you to accompany a friend or family member who is interested in coming home to an active, full practice of the faith.

**The nine frequently given reasons follow – you can probably tell us of other factors:**

- Reason 1: Some did not experience the power or presence of God in Catholicism or in the Catholic community of which they were a part.
- Reason 2: Some did not experience warm, personal, caring relationships in their encounters with Catholics. To them the people seemed cold, the services boring.
- Reason 3: Others did experience the complex religious system that seemed to lack relatedness to their lives and, for many, a lack of ministers appreciating their language and culture.
- Reason 4: Some were hurt in some way by Catholics - clergy or laity - and have not been reconciled.
- Reason 5: Some are in conflict with the teachings of the church on . . . matters of faith and morality.
- Reason 6: Others never knew their faith well and were ignorant of basics. They were easily misled in their lack of understanding, exploited by those who attack Catholic beliefs and practices for their own purposes.
- Reason 7: Some have been kept from full communion with the church because of a marriage outside the church.
- Reason 8: A significant number of the inactive simply got lazy and stopped going. They may have gotten busy with their jobs and families, and through their own fault did not find the time. In a recent survey of young-adult Catholics published in America Magazine, 35 percent of the inactive simply got too busy and were lazy and did not find the time to be involved.
- Reason 9: Others moved to new locations and never got around to finding a church in their new city or neighborhood. The America survey noted that 19 percent of the inactive young adults fell into this category.

## **A Special Word to Parents of Inactive Catholics**

We know how painful it can be for you when your children stop practicing their faith. You wonder where you went wrong, what you failed to emphasize, what you failed to explain. Instead of dwelling on what went wrong, take that energy and apply it to your prayer life.

Often your adult child's inactive faith can be a difficult subject for you to broach. Defensive reactions can be quick. You may have a tendency to lecture or to nag. Often the issue of Catholic practice may be tied up with delicate emotional issues between you and your children.

Still, never give up. Pray for your inactive children and model more vibrantly your own Catholic faith for them. There can be opportunities for you to talk empathetically with your children about the benefits of returning to the church. It requires a great deal of emotional calm, a supernatural spirit, and an intuitive sense of diplomacy and timing!

Remember St. Monica, who never gave up on St. Augustine. She prayed for Augustine for more than thirty years. During this period he restlessly tried several intellectual philosophies and engaged in self-centered, manipulative relationships. How painful it must have been for Monica to watch her talented son walk this self-destructive path.

It was through Monica's prayer that Augustine came home. We lift up our sons and daughters to the intercession of St. Monica and St. Augustine. We never give up on them.

### **Pray and Take Action**

We encourage you to continue with your own reflection. Think of your friends, your family, those in your sphere of influence in Saint Rose Parish and elsewhere.

Think about how you can tactfully speak with them and invite them back to the church. We will be praying for your efforts and will look forward to hearing about your experiences and benefiting from your own insights.

We further pray that this letter has renewed your heart's and imagination's efforts to open pathways of return for inactive Catholics' friends and family. May Christ's favor come to rest abundantly upon you and you loved ones this Christmas season.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. James F. Crookston

Fr. Carl A. Spishak

### **Schedule Summary – Gather in the Church Foyer**

#### ***Friends and Family Information Session***

**January 12, 7:00 P.M.**

#### ***Returning Catholic Sessions***

**January 26, 7:00 P.M. and February 12, 1:30 P.M.**

**Christmas Grace Before Meals:** A Christmas candle may be lighted as the leaders says:

Glory to God in the highest. (All respond) And peace to his people on earth.

The leader says:

Lord Jesus,  
in the peace of this season our spirits rejoice;  
With the beasts and angels,  
the shepherds and stars,  
with Mary and Joseph  
we sing God's praise.

By your coming  
may the hungry be filled with good things,  
and may our table and home be blessed.

Glory to God in the highest. (All respond): And peace to his people on earth.

**Blessing for Travelers:**

This prayer may be used at the beginning of any journey to ask God's blessing and protection for an individual, family, or group. Where there is a large gathering, those who are traveling may remain in the center. Sign of the Cross

Prayer: All may join in a moment of silent prayer, a decade or the Rosary, a psalm (such as Ps. 8 or Ps. 23), or another familiar prayer.

Reading: One of these texts may be read from the scriptures: Eph. 1:3-10 or 3-14; Eph 3: 14-21; Col. 3:1-4 or 12-17; Matthew 25:14-23; Luke 1:30-45 or 39-56 or 46-55; John 1: 1-14; John 14: 1-7.

Reflection: All may remain in silence for a moment of meditation on God's word.

Blessing:  
Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,  
you have shown your love for us  
by giving us Jesus to be our way to you.  
Guide our friends as they begin this journey.  
Bless them with peace and joy as they travel,  
and bring them home safely.

We ask this grace  
through Jesus, our brother and our Lord. (All answer): Amen.

Let us go forth in the peace and love of Christ. (All answer): Thanks be to God.

**Christmas Litany:**

Blessed are you, Lord God.

(All answer): Blessed are you for ever.

Holy is your name. *R.*

You have sent your Son to be one of us. *R.*

You love your people with deepest love. *R.*

You have sent your Son to save us from sin. *R.*

Great is your mercy for your people. *R.*

You fill your children with joy. *R.*

You call us to praise your name. *R.*

Look with love upon your holy Church. *R.*

Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts. *R.*

Let us bring glory and praise to your name. *R.*

Through Jesus Christ your Son. *R.*

And in the love of your holy Spirit. *R.*

Give thanks to God, for he is good.

(All answer) Glory to God in the highest!

He sent his Son to be one of us. *R.*

He sent his Son because he loves us. *R.*

He sent his Son to dwell among us. *R.*

He sent his Son to save us. *R.*

Jesus came to save us from sin. *R.*

He came to bring us eternal life. *R.*

Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. *R.* Amen.