

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun Dec 14	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 16	6:10 PM	Bingo
Wed Dec 17	5:45-6:30 PM	Pro-Life Rosary
	6:30 PM	8:15 Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	10:30 Choir Practice
Thurs Dec 18	9:00-11:00 AM	Eucharistic Adoration
Fri Dec 19	6:10 PM	Bingo
Sun Dec 21	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



Monday, Dec. 15

8:30 a.m. †Marie Donnelly Gioveno (*Joseph K. Kling Sr.*)

Tuesday, Dec. 16

8:30 a.m. †Theresa Jean Wojcik (*John & Terri Fraundorfer*)

Wednesday, Dec. 17

8:30 a.m. †Melvin Chirdon (*Family*)

Thursday, Dec. 18

8:30 a.m. †Thomas Riley (*Tony & Judi Lamont*)

Friday, Dec. 19

8:30 a.m. †Marge Delaney (*O'Leary & Wiley Families*)

Saturday, Dec. 20

8:30 a.m. †Peter & Margaret Cole (*Aileen Parker*)
5:30 p.m. †James Nasralla (*Wife & Family*)

Sunday, Dec. 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00 a.m. †Dorothy Reilly (*Reilly Family*)
8:15 a.m. †Alfonce Engelman (*Paul & Mary Engelman*)
10:30 a.m. †Mary Riccio (*Gloria (Mollica) & Mike Croft*)
12 Noon Mass for the People

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

Servers for December 20-21, 2008

5:30 p.m. Stefan Beard, Billy Beard, John Barnes, Johnny Brown
7:00 a.m. Volunteers
8:15 a.m. Chase McGear, Matthew Gormley, Kaitlyn Lersch
10:30 a.m. Zachary Bender, Derek Mrdjnovich, Delaney Hallinan, Caitlin Berkheimer
12 Noon Aaron Yasulitis, Elissa Ehredt, Eugene Ehredt, Aaron Yasulitis
Eucharistic Ministers for December 20-21, 2008
5:30 p.m. S. Askey, J. Scarfone, J.E. Brown, B. Bartley, K. McGraw
7:00 a.m. J. Fox, J. Trexler, D. Leahey
8:15 a.m. R. Skupien, P. Engelman, M. Engelman, B. Stoltz, E. Stoltz
10:30 a.m. M. Kooman, K. Mrdjnovich, T. Goss, G. Goss, Y. Gibson
12 Noon M. Eberhart, R. Eberhart, M.A. Eberhart
Lectors for December 20-21, 2008
5:30 p.m. Joseph Maschue, Bernice Shoenfelt
7:00 a.m. Paul Cooney, Raymond Kline
8:15 a.m. Patrick Labriola, Randy Donnelly
10:30 a.m. Barbara Kooman, Laverne Previte
12 Noon Jim Lane, Michael Nazaruk

FROM THE 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 14, 4:00 P.M.; Saint John's – Monday, December 15, 6:30 P.M.; Cathedral – Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 P.M.; Sacred Heart – Thursday, December 18, 5:30 P.M.; Our Lady of Lourdes – Friday, December 19, 5:30 P.M.; . Our parish reconciliation service is Monday, December 22, 7:00 P.M. The priests also will hear individual confessions following the 8:30 A.M. Mass Tuesday, December 23, and Wednesday, December 24.

PARISH DEBT REDUCTION

This weekend, December 13-14, the Second Collection will be for the Parish Debt Reduction. We welcome your generosity.

FOUNDATION NOTES

As year end approaches, many people think about the arrival of the "tax man" in April of next year. This may also be a good time to think about the St. Rose School & Parish Endowment. Our School & Parish Endowment was created in 2006 and its donations may be tax deductible. This year our endowment reinvested its earnings to build its amount to over \$90,000. Contributions to this endowment is accepted in any amount. To learn more contact Fr. Crookston at 944-8509.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING—DECEMBER 6-7, 2008

Regular	\$10473.50	Christmas	\$ 195.00
Capital Campaign	\$ 113.00	Rose	\$ 162.50
Christmas Flowers	\$ 1464.00	Candles	\$ 15.00
Immaculate Conc.	\$ 82.00	Perquisites	\$ 25.00
Human Develop.	\$ 27.00	Register	\$ 8.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 40.00	Initial	\$ 3.00
Religious Retire.	\$ 71.00	Total	\$12679.00

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL NEWS

The St. Rose School **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** is Wednesday, Dec. 17th at 7:00 PM in the Maria Parish Center. All are welcome to attend this delightful performance. There is no admission cost. (snow date – Thursday, Dec. 18th)

The Technology Committee will meet Monday, Dec. 15th at noon in the computer room.

On Dec. 2 we began our annual **TOY DRIVE** to benefit the St. Vincent DePaul Society's Family Kitchen which is under the direction of Sr. Paula DelGrosso. We are collecting **new, unwrapped** toys (**maximum \$20.00**) until Monday, Dec. 15. You may give your donation to any St. Rose School student or bring it to the school office. As you know we are in a very difficult economy, and the need is great, so we would appreciate your support. Thank you.

Christmas vacation is from Monday Dec. 22nd until Monday, Jan. 5th. Dismissal on Monday, Dec. 22nd is at 10:30. Mass is at 8:30.

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays the school children have been involved in many outreach programs: Oxfam and St. Vincent DePaul's Family Kitchen/ two food drives/ cards for veterans, military personnel, and prisoners/Catholic Charities "Adopt-a-Family" program/Family Kitchen Toy Drive/ loose change collection for our diocesan mission in Fulton County. Thank you, students, for your kindness and generosity to those in need. "Whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do to me."

Thank you to all who contribute to the second collection on the third weekend Masses. This money is a significant help to the school as we work to rebuild our reserve account. The children always remember you in our morning prayers.

SCHOOL RESERVE ACCOUNT:

Thank you for your most generous response to the third weekend of the month, second collection. In November we received \$475.49 and forwarded it to the school. We appreciate your support. Next weekend (Dec. 20/21) is our next second collection dedicated to the restoration of funds to our school reserve fund. Remember, also that your after Mass purchase and use of merchants' gift cards helps also

OFFERTORY PRESENTERS

Dec. 20	5:30 p.m.	Rose Nasralla & Carmie Maniglia
Dec. 21	7:00 a.m.	Bob & Mary Ann Fox
	8:15 a.m.	Paul & Mary Engelman
	10:30 a.m.	Richard & Jackie Riccio
	12 Noon	Volunteers

CANDLES: Kay Patton by John Patton, Fritz & Mary Werkmeister by Toby & Joyce Kjarsgaard, Thanksgiving Special Intentions for the Living.

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

The Rosary is prayed every Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. here in the church for an end to abortion. Everyone is welcome.

ADVENT TREE

The ornaments on our foyer Advent Tree remind us of our homebound parishioners. We have tied each ornament a card that has the name, address, and phone number of a homebound parishioner. Untie this card and arrange an "Advent through Christmas time" visit with the named person. You may want to take a 'gift' for beyond the visit. You may want to learn weather being a green thumb or free of diet restrictions is a consideration for your gift. Friendly conversations grow friendships and have zero calories and are specially enriched with love– the Spirit that brought Jesus to visit all of us!

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 December 19. Your memorial will be in our Christmas Bulletin. Please print your remembrances.

THE BOOK CLUB

We are discussing the book "Saint Paul Called to Conversion" by Ronald D. Witherup. Pages 33 through 62 will be discussed on Dec. 14, in the computer room of the school. You do not have to read the book to enjoy the discussion. Come and participate or come and listen!

"IN DEFENSE OF LIFE"

Despite efforts to downplay abortion's roles in its lucrative business, Planned Parenthood has become responsible for nearly a quarter of all abortions performed in the United States. And while the organization advertises itself as nonprofit, its latest annual report shows America's top abortion chain setting records in revenues-over a billion dollars. (NRL News, April, 2008)

ACCOLADE 2009 ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

The 2009 BG Yearbook Club is looking for advertisers to help reduce the per person cost of the yearbook. All friends and business supporters of BG are asked to consider placing an ad. A DISCOUNT PRICE is being offered for a limited time until January 9. Payment and artwork must be received by January 9 to qualify for the discount. Visit the www.bishopguilfoyle.org for more details (School News).

CORRECTED SCRIP CARD SCHEDULE FOR

December 13-14, 2008

5:30 p.m. Jen Myrick, John Brown, Bev Elder
7:00 a.m. Brenda Altiero, Dan Altiero, Greg Miller
8:15 a.m. Sherry Price, Damian Charlesworth, Kelly Charlesworth
10:30 a.m. Diane Gormley, Mary Wiley, Deb Fraundorfer
12 Noon Heather Macharola, Bonnie Frederick, P.J. Bracken

SCRIP CARD VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December 20-21, 2008

5:30 p.m. Jen Myrick, Jim Shoenfelt, Amy Yahner
7:00 a.m. Brenda Altiero, Dan Altiero, Ken Lenze
8:15 a.m. Sherry Price, Mary Reffner, Mary Campbell
10:30 a.m. Pat Condrin, Tom Goss, Becky Bimle
12 Noon Chris Bracken, P.J. Bracken, Jeanne Danison

Dear Parishioners:

I would like to thank you for your most generous response to our ministry Cross International Catholic Outreach when I was there on the weekend of September 6-7, 2008. Your parish donated \$2,026.00 that will have a direct impact in the lives of the poorest of the poor. May the Lord continue to bless all of you for your love and support!

Sincerely,
Rev. Thomas P. Hunstiger

St. John the Evangelist Church

344 Baynton Ave., Lakemont will present:

Music of Advent –St. John's Combined Choirs

The choirs and musicians of St. John's Church unite to perform sacred music of the Advent and Christmas Seasons on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Suggested Donation: \$8.00 Adults/\$15.00 Family.

The Emergency Shelter Project Inc. Altoona's only family shelter, provides emergency transitional housing and services for homeless families of Blair County. The Shelter has been in operation since 1995 and in 2008 so far has served 25 families and 41 individuals. The Shelter is in critical need of substantial furniture and is accepting financial donations for this particular need. During this holiday season, if you are able to share with families in crisis, please send a donation earmarked "Christmas project" to:

Emergency Shelter Project, Inc.

2700 Eighth Ave.

Altoona, Pa. 16602

All donations are tax deductible and any amount is greatly appreciated.

Gratefully,

Sister Cynthia Meyer, CSFN

Trustee of Emergency Shelter Project

WHAT; Carmelite Day of Recollection

Sunday, December 14, 2008

1:00-3:00 p.m.

WHERE; Our Lady of the Alleghenies Chapel at Garvey Manor

200 Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, Pa.

TOPIC; The life of St. John of the Cross; Surrendering to the will of God.

PRESENTER; Fr. Joseph Orr

Pastor at St. Matthew's Church

Tyrone, Pa.

St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Shop

St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Shop (2223-8th Ave. Altoona) is in need of blankets. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Volunteers are always welcomed and needed.

THE GREATEST GIFT

"And the greatest gift is love." Husbands and wives, the most precious gift that you give to each other is your love. Why not renew your love with the experience of a Marriage Encounter Weekend. It's a perfect Christmas gift.

The Marriage Encounter Weekend is intended for couples with good marriages. It provides the opportunity to look at your relationship in an atmosphere of privacy and gives you a chance to give thanks for the gift of your lover, something that most of us don't take the time to do often enough.

The weekend is at the beautiful Toftrees Resort in State College Feb. 13-15. Register by Jan. 23rd for a \$10.00 discount on the registration fee. Call 1-412-635-2775 for details.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGICAL REFLECTION...

Our ancestors reveled in the gift of music, sometimes with God's urging. "Write out this song, then, for yourselves," God said to Moses. "Teach it to the Israelites and have them recite it, so that this song may be a witness to me." The Chosen People, after they passed through the Red Sea, sang as one to the Lord. David and the Israelites made merry before the Lord with all their strength and with singing." Jesus and his apostles sang a hymn before their journey to the Mount of Olives. Saint Paul instructed the Ephesians to "(address) one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts."

Sing to the Lord, *Music in Divine Worship*, Numbers 3 and 4

Did you attend Catholic School? If so, you will really enjoy this one-woman play! **Late Nite Catechism** is the hit comedy about Catholic school in the fifties and sixties with "Sister." This hilarious performance will be at Bishop Guilfoyle High School on Saturday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 25 at 2:00 p.m. Light refreshments included. And, of course, there will be a 50/.50 . Wouldn't this make a great Christmas present for Mom and Dad? Tickets are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. Call Julie at St. John's for tickets 943-4966.



PRAYER CORNER

December 14, 2008

A Morning Prayer for Advent

Lord, the light I choose to let into my life today is based on my trust in You. It is a weak flame, but I desire that it grow into a bright light as I go through my day. Today, I want to taste the longing I have for You as I go about my work, carrying out my responsibilities, facing the frustrations of difficult relationships and duties. More than anything, dear Lord, I desire that others may see the light from my inner candle, and they may also be filled with a longing for Your presence in their life. Amen.

ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Sunday evening, December 14, at 7:00, the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will present its annual Advent of Christmas Concert featuring the Cathedral Festival Choir and Cathedral Youth Choir, directed by Cathedral Music Director Nicholas Will, and accompanied by orchestra, organ, and piano. The program will feature Antonio Vivaldi's famed *Gloria* and a variety of music from the Advent and Christmas seasons, in addition to well-known carols. A free will offering will be gratefully accepted.

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL

December 14

Jn 1:6-8

A parent is meant to be a "witness to the light." To be effective, light must be in front of our children, not follow to "make straight the path of the Lord" for their children.

St. Catherine of Siena Church, Duncansville, is currently selling Calendar of Cash Prizes as their major annual fundraiser. There is a chance to win every day throughout 2009, and the winning number each day is based on the 7:00 p.m. daily number of the Pennsylvania Lottery. Calendars of Prizes make great gifts. The cost is \$25.00. There will be 365 cash prizes given that total \$12,500.00. Checks are mailed weekly. Numbers are not boxed. For more information or to purchase, please call 696-4126 (leave you name and phone number).

VOCATION VIEWS

Third Sunday of Advent

God gives you a mission. Respond! Rejoice in the Spirit who is at work in you. (Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11)

A SAVING FEAST

"Step back from your hectic schedule in these weeks before the feast and join in exploring the meaning of Jesus' birth. Christmas can truly be a saving feast in which we find the answer to our deepest longings, the healing of our most painful wounds, and peace for our restless hearts.

Even for us today, Christmas is a time of memory and expectation. We are celebrating our birth. We love because Jesus lives. But each of us honors the feast for a particular reason. Some of those reasons are hidden in the secrets of our hearts. We come with memories. We carry the blessings and sufferings of our past. The hopes and fears of all our years come together in this celebration. In healing for our painful memories. We also bring our dreams. Each of us has expectations. We desire good for those we love, we want peace on earth, we seek happiness in our lives. Those hopes come true in Christmas."

Wm. J. Freburger, *Catholic Update*

