

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 10:00 AM PreK Rel. Ed—RE
11:15 AM Mid. School Rel. Ed. - RE
Coffee and Donuts
- Tue 10:00AM George & Anna Hoffman @
Fairview Manor
Requested by the Family
7:00 AM Finance Meeting - O
7:00 PM Advent Penance Celebration
- Wed 9:00 AM Staff Meeting - P
6:30 PM - Festival Choir Rehearsal
6:30 PM Maintenance - O
7:00 PM CL & M-P
- Thu 7:00 PM Youth Meeting -P
- Sat 9:00 AM Elem. Rel. Ed. - RE

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**QUESTION OF THE WEEK -
Third Sunday of Advent**

Waiting with Hope

Adult: When have I felt most alive in the presence of God?

Child: When are some times that I felt God was near me? Was I happy?

The Ghost of Christmas Past Becomes the Ghost of Christmas Present



You may recall our pre-Christmas emergency last year when the heating/AC unit for the chapel “gave up the ghost” and had to be replaced. Well it seems that one of our boilers has become the Ghost of Christmas Present.

The boiler, which developed serious pin hole leaks in the block, needed to be shut down. It is one of six boilers, which unfortunately in age are all reaching their limit for life expectancy for boilers.

We will be obtaining bids on options for both repair and replacement. We will thoughtfully consider all options and make the best decision for our parish. Please pray that we don't encounter the Ghost of Christmas Future next year.

Advent Penance Service will be celebrated at Holy Cross on **Tuesday, December 15th, at 7:00 PM.** Several priests will be present for individual confession. If you are unable to attend the service, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered on Saturday from 4:15 PM until 5:00 PM, or by appointment.

Help Decorate the Church for Christmas!!
Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Church on December 20th after the 10:00 AM Mass. If you are able to offer some time, please join us around 11:00 AM that day.

“Battle of the Holiday Bulge” - Keep the holiday “goodies” under control, win an award, and become healthier at the same time. To participate in the program: **Monday, December 14, 2009**, weigh in and have Body Mass Index (BMI) determined at Holy Cross. Time: 8:30 am –9:30 AM. **Tuesday, January 12, 2010**, weigh in and have BMI determined. Awards: Number of Participant losing the most pounds, Number of participants maintaining original weight. Go for a merrier Christmas, feeling GREAT!!

EXTERIOR WALL UPDATE

It occurred to me in one of my more optimistic moments, fostered no doubt by the spirit of the season, that the restoration work on the exterior wall of the church could indeed be completed prior to Christmas Eve. We have learned, however, that the materials (which we are told are outstanding and can withstand the rigors of our northern climate) will take three weeks or longer to arrive. We have, therefore, let Building Systems, Inc. know that the restoration work will need to wait until after Christmas. While the news is disappointing, the gray-tarped wall, which has held up well under wintry conditions, is beginning to find a special place in our hearts. We will keep you posted on the progress.

Joan M. Kramzer, Director of Finance & Operations

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
PRESIDER:	Fr. Scott Detisch	Fr. Scott Detisch	Fr. Scott Detisch
LECTOR:	Barb Lee and Sr. Linda Fusco	John and Pat Timon	Don and Fran Buseck
CO-ORD:	Marie Scicchitano and Shirley Loeslein	Chuck Smith and Chris DeSantis	Melanie Lion and Sue Leopold
EUCH. MINISTERS:	Ralph Niebauer, Dee Filipkowski, Peg Mallin, Marylou Partington, Mary Ann Tuschak, Jean and Jim Terry	Tony DeSantis, Alan Hannibal, Barb Mitcho, Bob and Peg McCrarey, Dianne Miller, Sylvia Smith	Tom George, Bruce and Siobhan Kobal, Tim Healy, cindy Dropcho, Frank and Nancy Hodas, Dan and Marianne Levstek, Carole Wingerter
SERVERS:	Corbin Zitalone, Marah Zitalone, Lainey Wyman	Andrew Groszkeiwicz, Justin Groszkiewicz, Dominic Kiser	Liam Kobal, Emmy Hackshaw, Amanda Woodman
MUSIC:	Cantor	Cantor	VIP Choir
MINISTERS OF CARE:		Karen Kocjancic	
NURSERY:	<i>Nursery is available at the 10:00 a.m. mass only</i>		



Mass Intentions

Monday	December 14, 2009
8:00 AM	Bertha Drescher Req. by Family
Tuesday	December 15, 2009
8:00 AM	Matilda and Charles Tague Req. by Mary Duval
Wednesday	December 16, 2009
8:00 AM	Margaret Tague Req. by Mary Duval
Thursday	December 17, 2009
8:00 AM	Communion Service
Friday	December 18, 2009
8:00 AM	Frances Bens Req. by Bob and Peg McCrarey
Saturday	December 19, 2009
5:30 PM	Stanley Dylewski Req. by Family of Frank and Rose Dylewski
Sunday	December 20, 2009
8:00 AM	Holy Cross Parish Family
10:00 AM	Al Duval Req. by Mary Duval

Readings for the Week of December 13

Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7,15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2,9-13/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8,18,21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Gn 49:2,8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Friday:	Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Saturday:	Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Next Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Our sanctuary lamp will burn this week in memory of
DAVID BISHOP
 Requested by Rae Bishop
(If you wish to request that the candle burn in memory of a loved one or for some other shared intention, please call the office.)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

225/597 Adult Env. Received	Average \$31.07
28/257 Children Env. Received	Average \$0.87
Budgeted Average Weekly Expense	\$7,300.00
Actual Offertory Collection (\$136.69 Loose).....	\$7863.14
Difference	\$563.14
Year-To-Date Budget (23 weeks).....	\$167,900.00
Actual Year-To-Date Collection	\$154,910.45
Year-To-Date Difference	-\$12,989.55

Catholic Services Appeal

# Responses	260
Total Amount Pledged	\$90,416.00
Payments or Pledges	\$79,930.00
Balance Due on 2009 Pledges by 1/31/10	\$10,486.00

Some Thoughts on Christmas. . .

The real title for Christmas is the "Feast of the Incarnation." That title reminds us that what we celebrate is that God takes on human flesh [from the Latin "carnes," which means "flesh"]. Christmas, or the Feast of the Incarnation celebrate that the unseen, eternal God of all the universe has entered into human history and become one of us. The Creator has united with his creatures. God has become intimately joined with every aspect of our human lives. And this all happens in and through the birth of Jesus Christ.

And so Christmas does not merely celebrate an event of 2000 years ago; it celebrates what is happening in our lives right now – God is seeking to be intimately united with every aspect of our lives. God is trying to enter every moment, every experience, every relationship that we have. God, who has become one of us in Christ, is seeking to be one with us in Christ.

That is our task in the remaining days leading to Christmas – to let Christ into every aspect of who we are. Therefore, here are some things we can do to make final preparations for Christmas:

1. If we haven't yet spent any time in quiet stillness, begin to do so – a few moments each day. Let Christ into the worries, the anguish, the joy, the hope, the longings, the hurts, or whatever surfaces during that time of reflection. Recognize that you are not alone, no matter what is going on in your life.
2. Bring some joy and hope to another person, especially in simple and sincere ways. Nothing gives "birth" to Christ more than when we reach out to those who need to experience the love of God in their lives.
3. Seek reconciliation with God and with whomever there has been some form of resentment, harshness or anger. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a good place to begin. Christ always comes as "peace on earth and good will" among people. So let us be agents of peace where there has been alienation.
4. Take time at the end of each day to recollect the ways that Christ's presence came to you that day, especially in the simplest gifts of the day and the people and moments in which you saw goodness and grace made evident.
5. Spend more time with loved ones so that our homes truly become a new Bethlehem – a true place in which Christ is born into the world today.

Christmas is not merely about how and when God came to earth in the flesh as one of us. It is about how God now comes to earth in the flesh and blood realities of our lives. That is where the birth of Christ now happens.

God's Peace,
 Fr. Scott