

Mass Intentions for the Week



Monday, December 21-Peter Canisius, priest & doctor

7:00 A.M. Kay Bellissimo (M/M Paul Stefura)
 9:00 A.M. Mary T. DeCaro (Ann Bogusky)

Tuesday, December 22

7:00 A.M. Julia Lockawich (Jane Evans)
 9:00 A.M. Edna Kuben (Grace Geniviva)

Wednesday, December 23-John of Kanty, priest

7:00 A.M. Jennifer Rossi (Family)
 9:00 A.M. Angelina Stair (Daughter & Family)

Thursday, December 24-Christmas Eve

7:00 A.M. Black Jo DeCaria (Loving Family)
 9:00 A.M. Mauro Vitullo (Val & Todd Carter)
 6:00 P.M. Memorials
 Midnight Memorials

Friday, December 25-Nativity of the Lord/Christmas

8:00 A.M. Memorials
 10:00 A.M. Memorials

Saturday, December 26-Stephen, first martyr

9:00 A.M. Joseph R. Frisk (Wife & Family)
 3:30 P.M. McCullough/ Pelissier-Wedding


Sunday, December 27-Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph

5:00 P.M. Saturday Deceased of Boydell, Dobransky and Hall Families (John Boydell)
 8:00 A.M. All Deceased of the Parish during 2009 (The Bereavement Committee)
 10:00 A.M. Julia Coast (Husband & Family)
 12:00 P.M. Letitia & William Pratt (Dewey & Gloria Minter)



SCRIPTURE VERSE

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled" Lk 1:41,42,45



The office will be closed at 12:00 PM Noon on December 23rd and will reopen on December 28th at 9:00 AM.

OPLATEK-CHRISTMAS WAFERS: We now have our Christmas Wafers available. Each packet is \$3.00. We have a limited supply so get your's early. Thank You.



Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild is having a homemade Christmas Cookie Sale on trays after all the masses Saturday, December 19th and Sunday, December 20th. The sale will be in back of the church vestibule. People will be called and asked to bake. If anyone wasn't called we appreciate the cookies. Please bring all cookies down to the lunchroom only, so we can prepare the trays. Thanks

Need a vacation? Join Holy Redeemer Parish and Father Mark Thomas for a relaxing Mediterranean cruise aboard the beautiful Norwegian Jade May 7-16, 2010. Flyers are in the church or contact Jude Dici at 724-758-4913 for additional information.



Special Activities Group (SAG)
 Annual tickets are now available. Annual monetary awards total \$75,875. Details are contained in the flyer available in the vestibule of the church or call Joe Bellissimo at 724-752-2224. **GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

Holy Redeemer Social Club Yearly Calendar Raffle
Tickets are available for next year 2010. You can get your favorite number by calling Stretch at 724-752-3751. Also a Great Christmas Gift for only \$40.00 each ticket.

Readings for the Week of December 20, 2009

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
 Monday: Sq 2:8-14 or Zep 3: 14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
 Wednesday: Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
 Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12,14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
 Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:-25 or 1:18-25
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2: 1-14
 Dawn: Is 62: 11-12/Ti 3: 4-7/Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1: 1-6/Jn 1: 1-18 or 1: 1-5, 9-14
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/Mt 10: 17-22
 Next Sunday: Sir 3: 2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/ Col 3: 12-21 or 3: 12-17 or 1 Jn 3: 1-2, 21-24/Lk 2: 41-52

Support all Catholic Education: "Great Beginnings last a lifetime."



Fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas

No matter whether we are waiting for a table at our favorite restaurant, in line for the movies or sports event, or the next ride on the Thunderbolt, no one really enjoys waiting in a line. While this is true, it is also true that there is excitement in the air the closer we come to our goal. That's where we are this Sunday. The readings prepare us for the upcoming feast by giving us a glimpse into the mysteries we will be celebrating.

Today we see Bethlehem, an unsophisticated little village that is but a stone's throw from the thriving capital, Jerusalem. From this rugged little village will come a ruler even greater than King David. A shepherd will be born there unlike any shepherd who tends flocks in the hills surrounding the simple dwellings. And something extraordinary occurs between two women. The lives within the sanctuaries of their wombs recognize each other. The encounter is out in the open, yet it is seen by no one.

Why does God choose what is ordinary in order to carry the radiance of the Divine? Might it be so that the glory is not given to the common vessel that holds it, but returns to God where it belongs? God's choices should encourage us all. The Mystery of the Incarnation comes to ordinary people living ordinary lives. All that is required is openness to do God's will and willingness to respond to God's call. According to the Letter to the Hebrews, such obedience was the motivating force in Jesus' life, "I come to do your will." As we stand before the Nativity of Our Lord, we begin to realize that the radiance of God can shine forth through the faithfulness of ordinary events of life.

The scenes depicted in the readings for Christmas have been captured in many Christmas Cards. The Son of God, the King of Kings appears first to shepherds, the poor, the outcasts and sinners. These are not the kind of people those in authority would listen to. This is a choice that will be repeated throughout his adult life: the Good News is announced first to the poor, the lonely and the sinners. And the Good News is: "A Savior has been born for you who is Christ, the Lord." How does your heart want to respond?

The priests and staff of Holy Redeemer Parish wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!



Michael Spiegel, Donna Lample, , Mollie Pelligrone, Rose Reda, Debra White, Peter Bietch, Carol Woods, Marie Pander, Ida McCelland,

Ron O'Donnell, Sr., Jodi Minteer, Michael Henderson, Elizabeth Pullion, Carson Kellar, Tina Jeannette, Corey Ayres, Elizabeth LaCava, Cindy Cancelli Buffington, Margie Pelloni, April Samsa, Karen Rybka, Mafalda Dombeck, Richard Cox, Ann Moczan, George Bokor, Sr., Joan McDonald, Edward J. Stemmerick, Anna Marie Bucci, Dan "Joe" Weisz, Damien DeCaria, Mary (Tootles) Millhouse, Bob Greene, Fred Faroni, Cheryl Owens, Mary Hilliard, Richelle Owens, John Owens, Ashley Marsano and Tim Mann, Jerry McCrumb, Mary Pascazi, Eric Hassen

This weekend, you will find an invitation in the bulletin for Holy Redeemer School's alumni weekend. If you did not submit your contact information prior to this, here is your chance to attend. Please fill it out and return it to the school office by January 15, 2010. Thank You.

Decorating the Church Help Needed

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Wednesday, December 23. Anyone interested in helping is asked to come to church at 2:00 PM.

CELEBRATING OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Commemorative 10th Anniversary Plates are currently in production: Bishop Zubik will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our Parish with an evening mass on Friday February 5th, 2010. Also, marking this milestone event is a limited supply of Commemorative Plates, sponsored by the Holy Name Society that will be available the week of January 11, 2010. The Holy Name Society is now taking advance orders via flyers available at each of the church entrances. Please deposit your order in the offertory collection baskets. Or you can reserve your plate by simply calling the parish office at 724-758-4411 or John Biondi: 724-674-6200; John DeCaro, Sr. 724-758-9675; Cos Morabito 724-758-7267. Total plate cost of \$15.00 also includes a plate stand.



The following invoices were paid for the second week in December. Dept of Public Welfare \$10.00, Postmaster \$265.02, Mid -Month Payroll \$4,090.00, Paulist National Catholic \$181.00

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS
Week of 12/12-13

Weekly collection needed	\$12,300.00
Weekly collection received.....	\$6,377.60
Weekly & Monthly counted in office last week..	\$2,119.00

Because of the bad weather our collections are down. Hopefully this will correct itself as the weather improves. Thanks for your cooperation and also your generosity in support of our parish.

Remember Holy Redeemer Parish in your will.

SERVING THE PARISH

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS for 12/24-25-Christmas

- 6:00 P.M. *Dorothy Schilling, Lou Tomon, Irene McCrumb, Lou Ann Salvati, Judi Dici, Joanne Yost, Carmelia Fury
- Midnight** *Carol Nocera, Jim Gillespie, Ann Tomak, Lisa Greco, Sharon Smith, Skip Hazen, Lisa Hazen
- 8:00 A.M. *Jane Petrak, Mary Anne Mansell, Teresa Krukenberg, Tom Hazen, Mimi Spade, Susanna Schaffer, Elaine Ferruchie
- 10:00 A.M. *Linda Pohto, Rose Fox, Judy Yeykal, Barbara Russo, Paul Plaveccky, Mark Strosnider, Julie Strosnider

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR 12/26-27

- 5:00 P.M. *Lou Tomon, Irene McCrumb, Carmelia Fury, Lou Ann Salvati, Carol Nocera, Judi Dici, Dorothy Schilling
- 8:00 A.M. *Grace Fornataro, Jane Petrak, Teresa Krukenberg, Annie Raybuck, Dave Raybuck, Tom Hazen, Susanna Schaffer
- 10:00 A.M. *Cherlyn Rangle, Sharon Smith, Rose Fox, Janet Hall, Lisa Greco, Debbie Pagley, Linda Pohto
- 12:00 P.M. *Mary Ellen McDowell, Pat Turner, Marilyn Frost, Kathy Gorzkowski, Pat Tomon, John Pansera, Charlie Chaffin

LECTORS for 12/24-25

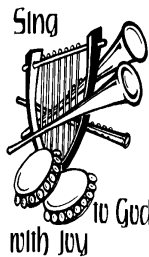
- 6:00 P.M. Tony Pietrocollo
- Midnight Frank LaGrotta
- 8:00 A.M. Jeremiah Friday
- 10:00 A.M. Pete Kucan

LECTORS 12/26-27

- 5 PM Connie Kreshon
- 8 AM Frank Manzo
- 10 AM Jane Crowley
- 12 PM Grace DeCaria

CANTORS

- 6:00 P.M. Andrea Verone
- Midnight Holy Redeemer Choir & Bell Choir
- 8:00 A.M. Jim Hackett
- 10:00 A.M. Kucan Family



CANTORS FOR 12/26 & 27

- 5:00 P.M. Gail & Patty Frisk
- 8:00 A.M. Jim Hackett
- 10:00 A.M. Holy Redeemer Choir & Bell Choir
- 12:00 P.M. Mary Beth Spielvogel

SERVERS for 12/26-27

- 5:00 P.M. Nathaniel, Marla Wiley & Megan Oehmler
- 8:00 A.M. John DeCaro, Richard McKinney, Mike Brown
- 10:00 A.M. R.J. Leisie, Isabella Williams, Geena DeCaria
- 12:00 P.M. Laura, Katelyn Wardman, Tommy Novosel

GREETERS-CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY

- 600 P.M. Guy Calabro, Joann Hart
- Midnight** Pat Morabito, Louise Carrozza, Carol Nocera, Jim Gillespie
- 8:00 A.M. Norm Giancola, Joyce Hackett, Jean Barsotti
- 10:00 A.M. Julie and Mark Strosnider & Myrna and Ralph DiCerbo

GREETERS FOR 12/26-27

- 5:00 P.M. Joanne Eichler, Pat Coccia
- 8:00 A.M. Felix Cistolo, Joyce Hackett, Tom Hazen
- 10:00 A.M. Marilyn & Steve Frost, Ann Plaveccky
- 12:00 P.M. Pat Gerello, Patty D'Ambrosio

ATTENTION: Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters & Lectors -please pick up your new schedule in the sacristy.

Traveling Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We are preparing a Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be available to visit your homes. The time She is in your home can be a great time of prayer and renewal for you and your family. If there is a particular week you wish to have the statue, please call the office

Traveling Chalice Coming Soon

As our parish prays for priests and an increase in vocations to the priesthood we are making a chalice available to be in your homes. This chalice will be with you for one week. During that time it will be your family's responsibility to pray for vocations. If there is a particular week you wish to have the chalice, please call the office.

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS: Please remember to bring photos of your relatives in the Armed forces. We will place them at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Also, please remember to offer prayers and light candles for our troops at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Take Advantage of the new Missalettes! The Missalettes are an excellent way to teach the Mass to our young people. In Addition you can now read the prayers and readings before Mass begins so that you will be better prepared for your experience of our Mass.

Holy Redeemer School Fundraisers

Dunkin Donut Coffee Sale-
\$8/lb buy now thru 11/12

Calendar tickets—\$10 each
Payout each day—for Jan., 2010

Tab coupons \$5/each
Coupon buy now thru 12/18 (on local business)



PARISH FOOD DRIVE is still going on. Parishioners are asked to support the Holy Redeemer Food Pantry by bringing non-perishable food items, paper products and toiletries to Holy Redeemer Religious Education Center on Bridge Street. Let us help make it possible for all families in the Ellwood City area to enjoy a wonderful Christmas! Thank you in advance for your support of this very important parish project!

