

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 7

St. Ambrose

5:30 PM Mass † Charles Hromidko

Tuesday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

9:00 AM School Mass Personal Intention

2:00 PM Mass at Silver Pines

6:00 PM Mass † Richard Hach

Eucharistic Adoration following 6 PM Mass

Wednesday, December 9

St. Juan Diego

7:15 AM Mass † Marie Peters

Thursday, December 10

7:15 AM Mass † Vern Dostal

Friday, December 11

St. Damascus I

7:15 AM Mass † Jennifer Maples

Saturday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

4:00 PM Mass † Jack Campbell

Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

10:30 AM Personal Intention

Pilgrim Statue in the home of:

Chris Bolden - 621 35th St NE

Dec 7-11. Recitation of the Rosary 7:30 PM

Prayer Line: Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2009

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7;
Lk 3:10-18



Born to a new life in Christ and joined to our faith community through the water of Baptism, we welcome:

Ava Marie Armstrong

daughter of Bryan and Lori Armstrong;

Kobe Joseph Rideout

son of Brad and Emily Rideout.

Baptism Class will be offered at John XXIII Church on Sunday, Dec 6 at 1 PM. Those attending must register beforehand at their own parish office. We do ask that if at all possible, both parents attend and that you arrange for childcare rather than bring your child to the class. Questions? Call 362.7282.



Make ready the way of the Lord! As

we move further into Advent no doubt we are also well into preparations for celebrating

Christmas. Usually these include the external aspects of getting the tree up, making family meal plans, and whittling down the gift list. I trust that among those preparations are which Christmas Mass your family will attend! This year our schedule returns to 4:00, 6:30, and 10:00 PM on Christmas Eve, and 9 AM on Christmas day.

In the Scriptures we hear Baruch and John the Baptist seemingly call God's people to the external or material preparation of *"Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth."*

But we know that external practices, no matter how well-conceived they might be, cannot create preparedness to welcome the Messiah and Savior of humankind. Rather, preparedness for the Lord begins within. Baruch describes this readiness in terms of exchanging a robe of misery for an outfit of glorious splendor! Isn't that really a description of one's soul, less caught up in the "stuff" of life, and more open to God? The fact remains that the only appropriate openness to God's saving action evolves from the inside out. There, within a humbled, contrite heart that knows itself to be undeserving of the blessing of forgiveness and the grace of reconciliation, a spiritual space can be cleared where God can enter in and find a welcome. There, in the emptiness that only God can fill, a disciple can begin to grow.

The Baptist's persistent outcry demands that we smooth the rough ways of our selfishness and ambition. He warns against trying to pretend our sins are not sins. He pushes us to level the mountains of pride as well as those molehills of needless worry that we have allowed to grow to mountainous proportions!

May you find in the Mass, in your reflection time, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (our communal celebration is Dec 19 at 11 AM), your charitable giving, and in your private prayer the desire to reshape yourself from within for the coming of our Savior this Christmas!

Lastly, my thanks to Msgr. Bleich for filling in for me while on vacation, and to you for the welcome you extended to him! Fr. Tom

Snow as we all know is expensive! Its why we are so blessed that Bill & Lisa Whitters family keep our parking lot clear as they do! It is also why St. John Cemetery only tries to keep the main roadways in the cemetery clear through the winter. With our budget in critical condition, snow removal in the old section on top of the hill will only occur if we have a burial there. We do regret our inability to make visiting graves there easier.

Please do make sure you remember St. John Cemetery in your estate plans! Funds are critically short with interest rates where they are. Your help in this ministry to the families of the deceased is a great work of mercy. Fr Tom

Task Force Meeting: Nov 23 at 7 PM at St. Jude

1. We reviewed the second draft of the parish life report which dealt with the following: reaching out, belonging, welcoming, and participating.
2. The Task Force reviewed the first draft of the stewardship report: active sharing between parishes on stewardship; enhancing task force ideas; vocation awareness: find concrete ways to encourage young people to be priests and religious; prayer for vocation; thankfulness.
3. The Task Force reviewed the first draft of the finance report: Income: tithing, third source income; salaries; supporting ministry; charity; how do we share resources, staff, and maintenance.

These reports will go to parishes and parish council for discussion that will lead to action and cooperation between parishes.

Very Rev. John Gossman and Msgr. Russell Bleich

Sr. Christine will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Dec 14th. Maybe you would like to surprise her with a birthday card on her special day. Sister has moved to Seven Oaks. Her new address is:

Sr. Christine Elias ND

3439 State Street Apt A-21

Omaha NE 68112-1779

Thank you for bringing her some joy as she has done to so many others.



Appreciation

Thank you to the following people who assisted with bingo this week: Jamie Henley, Carolyn Schulte, Frank Roman, Karen Billick, Jeanne Ross, Matt/Barb Teply, Gary Lamparek, Chris/Ashley Olsen, Paul/Leanne Junko, Elaine/Don Henson, Mary Locher. Bingo burger volunteers 11/15-12/1: Paul/Leanne Junko, Fran/Kathy Musel, Carol/Janet Hayek, Mary Ann Tresnak/Barb Jandl, Don/Elaine Hensen. Cake bakers 11/1-12/1: Ann Rude, Sue Berger, Mary Beth Neal, Colleen Knipper, Joan Sylvester, Mary Locher, Karen Billick, Brenda Havlik, Sue Vecerka, Lori McMann, Holly Bruns, Trudy Plotz.

Thank you to God's Housekeepers for Nov 22: Betty Skvor, Natalie Zaehring, Bob/Velma Leuenberger, Paul/Leanne Junko, Harold/Betty Schulze, Gary Stodola, Chelo Collier, Don Schulte. **Thank you to** Karen Hoefer, Vi Bentley, Wayne/Clarice Holland, Linda Trevinao, Paul/Leanne Junko, Betty Schulze, Chelo Collier, Linda McCoy, Janet Hayek, Kathy Shelton for cleaning/oiling the pews on November 23.

Thank you to our parish volunteer secretary for the week **Nov 22:** Mickey Betz.

Thank You to Joe & Jeri Whitters family for all the landscaping, drain work, and sodding they provided to the parish in taking care of our drainage problem in front of the gym! We can look forward to getting to the gym without sloshing through or skating over the water that collected on our sidewalks there!

Parish Grounds Clean-up: It is with appreciation & gratitude we thank the following for a big job done. The job could not have been done without the help & equipment of the following parishioners & their companies: Bill/Lois Lane - Bill Lane Construction: front-end loader; Bill/Lisa Whitters - Whitters Construction: dumpster. Ground Workers: Rosie Harvey, Emery/Asa Tew, Leroy DeMeulenaere, Harold Schulze, Jan Wiltgen, Elaine Samek, Joe/Kim Kopish, Tyler Dobson, Jeff Knipper, Sandy/Jan Kreuger, Dennis Drahozal, Jim/Kyle Drahozal, Dan Martinek. Thanks to Bob Borelli for organizing the jobs & workers. Lunch was cooked, donated, served by Elaine Hensen, Nancy Macek, Karen Billick, Shirley Sheetz, Clarice Holland, Kathy Bowersox, Jeanne Ross, Bonnie Campbell.

Fall Bazaar

THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make this year's Fall Bazaar a great display of Discipleship in action.

Thank you to the Religious Ed kids and families who knocked down the tables and chairs in the Social Hall. Thank you to the 20 plus people who helped move the bingo tables to the Social Hall and helped set up. Thank you to everyone who helped move the bingo tables back, cleaned up, and placed the tables and chairs back in the Social Hall. These tasks were never completed as easily as they were this year.

Thank you to the people who supplied cookies, candy, cakes, and pies. The variety this year was fantastic. Thank you to everyone who supplied crafts and items for the silent auction and raffle. Thank you to the people who donated food for Café Ludmila. Thank you to everyone who helped baked kolaches and or worked at the Bazaar in one of the church booths. Thank you to the Xavier youth who volunteered their Saturday afternoon to help us in many different areas.

I would like to thank the Fall Bazaar committee for all their hard work: Karen Koenighain, Ted Fries, Teenah Oldham, Karen Billick, Carolyn Schulte, Mary Locher, Andrew Davis, Marion Samec, Carrie Koch, Bill Brecht, and Randy Tresnak. The hours you put in, to make the Bazaar happen, is greatly appreciated. It is a pleasure working with you all. Without you the Bazaar could not happen. Your dedication makes my job very easy.

Thank you to the St. Ludmila Parish, which again showed Discipleship in action. I look forward to seeing you all next year at the Fall Bazaar.

Victor Randolph, Fall Bazaar Chair

Fall Bazaar Raffle Winners are:

Vase - Amanda Hill
Stained Glass Cross - Anne Teffer

Liturgy

Do you feel called to participate in a ministry roll during the weekend Masses? We need Ministers of Hospitality for all 3 Masses. Interested or would like more info, contact Tom/Jeanette Niccolai at 363.6115.

Youth Training for Liturgical Ministries: On Wednesday, Dec 9, a special training session will be held at St. Ludmila Church for any high school youth or college-age youth adults who want to serve as liturgical ministers for our monthly Youth Masses and/or our parish weekend Masses. Training for new Ministers of the Eucharist will be from 8:00-8:15 PM; while training for new Lectors/Commentators will be from 8:15-8:45 PM. Contact Bob at 298.9525 by Tuesday, Dec 8 to "register" for the training.

Sacramental Preparation

In preparation of First Reconciliation all 2nd grade parents (both Holy Family and Religious Education) are requested to attend Good Shepherd Night - Wed, Dec 9 in the St. Ludmila School Cafeteria. You have the choice to attend either the 5:15 PM or the 6:45 PM sessions. **Reception of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation is Wednesday, December 16 beginning at 6:45 PM in the church.**

Congratulations to all who have recently, or soon will, celebrate the birth of a child. Those intending to have a child baptized, need to attend a Baptism Preparation Class. The next one here at St. Ludmila is Sunday, Jan 17 from 1-3:00 PM in the Social Hall. If you attend Mass regularly, are active in the parish, and have already been through the class on two prior occasions, you need not attend again. However, you still need to contact the Parish Center to schedule a baptism and be reacquainted with the Church's requirements for Godparents. Please be aware when scheduling that except for emergencies or other serious reasons, **the Church continues to refrain from celebrating Baptism during Lent (Feb 17-April 1)** as part of its "fasting" to deepen our appreciation for the gift of faith.

Rite of Christian Initiation

Future Catholics and their parish sponsors will meet Sunday, Dec 6, 13, and 20 at 9:05 AM in the Church Social Hall.

Children's Catechumenate will meet Sundays at 9:00 AM in the Multipurpose Room in the lower level of the Church.

THANK YOU for your expressions of sympathy at my mother's recent death. Let us continue to pray for all our deceased loved ones. *May they rest in peace.*



Gratefully,
Sister Mary Lechtenberg
Pastoral Associate

Holy Family and Xavier

The St. Ludmila Center sent a donation of \$1,900 to the American Heart Association. Thanks to all who helped collect for Jump Rope for Heart. The top collector in 4th grade was Samuel Masangu, and the top collector in 3rd grade was Brooklyn Coate. Thanks to all the students who worked hard in raising funds and jumping rope for this worthwhile cause.

Holy Family Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd & 5th graders will be visiting Westdale Bowl this week as part of their PE class.



Concerts

The St. Ludmila Christmas Concert is Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 PM in St. Ludmila Church.

The Xavier Music Department invites you to come and enjoy our Christmas Program "Christmas with Xavier" on Sunday, Dec 13 at 5:00 PM at Xavier in the Ron Thillen Gymnasium.

The Christmas Concert for the children in grades K-2 is Tuesday, Dec 15 at 7 PM in St. Jude Church.

LaSalle Middle School Christmas Concert is Thursday, Dec 17 at 7 PM in the LaSalle MS gymnasium.

Youth Ministry

Senior High Tube-A-Looza: Hang onto your stocking caps, gang . . . this is the big winter adventure you've been waiting for! Bring your friends & join us on Dec 28 – 29 as we head to the Twin Cities in Minnesota for our 8th Annual Tube-A-Looza, sponsored by St. Ludmila Youth Ministry. On Monday, we'll shop, eat & hangout at the famous Mall of America, while on Tuesday we'll hit the slopes at Afton Alps for a fun-filled day of snow-tubing. Transportation will be via chartered bus, with simple overnight accommodations provided by St. Thomas Academy. The total cost of this exciting holiday event is \$75/person, meals (except Tuesday breakfast) not included. Registration and permission forms were sent in the mail last week to all St. Ludmila 9–12 graders, but extra forms are available from Bob at 298.9525. SPACE IS LIMITED and registration is FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE, if you're interested please send your completed forms & money (make check payable to St. Ludmila Parish) to St. Ludmila Youth Ministry or drop off in Bob's mailbox in the Parish Center RIGHT AWAY! The registration deadline is Wed, Dec 16. Don't miss out on the fun . . . it's totally Tube-A-Looza! (Note: participants must also have a completed white liability waiver on file at St. Ludmila in order to attend!)

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

Senior High Youth Night: All 9th-12th graders from St. Ludmila and your friends are invited to our Senior High Youth Night on Wed, Dec 9, from 5:00-6:30PM. We're going Christmas caroling, we'll meet at the Parish Center around 6:15PM to enjoy hot cocoa/treats. If you plan to join us for this great evening of service, fun, and fellowship; call Bob 298.9525 by Tues, Dec 8 to sign up (if no answer, leave a message). A few parents are also needed to drive, if you're willing to transport youth, call Bob a.s.a.p.!

Middle School Holiday Ice Skating Party: Attention all 6 - 8 graders! Grab your friends & join us for our Middle School Holiday Ice Skating Party Sat, Dec 19, from 2-4 PM at the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena. The cost \$3.00/person, plus \$2.00 for skate rental. All St. Ludmila Religious Education students & LaSalle Middle School students received a permission slip last week, but extra forms are available. Your completed permission slip & money (make checks payable to St. Ludmila Parish) are due to the Religious Ed Office in St. Ludmila School or to Bob Gardner at LaSalle no later than **Wed, Dec 9!** (NOTE: IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE ALL YOUTH - INCLUDING GUESTS - MUST HAVE A WHITE LIABILITY WAIVER ON FILE AT ST. LUDMILA OR LASALLE OR HAVE ONE COMPLETED BY YOUR PARENTS! Call 362.8148 to get a waiver form.)

Senior High/Middle School Ski Trip: Attention all St. Ludmila youth 6th grade and older! Plan to join us for a great afternoon/evening of fun on the slopes of our 11th annual Ski trip to Sundown Mountain in Dubuque on Sat, Jan 16, from 1:45PM to 11PM. Three packages are available: lift ticket only for \$38, ski rental/lesson, lift ticket for \$52, or snow board rental/lift ticket for \$52: all packages include transportation by chartered bus. Registration is open to all middle/high school youth from St. Ludmila, St. Jude, St. Pius X, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parishes PLUS YOUR FRIENDS on a first come, first serve basis. Space is limited, if you plan to participate send in your registration form and money TODAY! Registration deadline is Fri, Dec 18. All 6th - 12th grades from St. Ludmila received 2 registration forms, extra forms are available. Questions? Call Bob at 298.9525. **PLEASE NOTE:** Make check payable to St. Pius X Parish and all forms and money must be sent to St. Pius X Youth Ministry at address listed on the form (not to St. Ludmila).

Recipes!! The recipe collection box will be in the Gathering Space until Dec 13. You can e-mail your recipes to: stludcookbook@gmail.com Questions? Sara: 378.8321 or Ann: 396.9154.

SUNDAY, December 6

9:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH-Multipurpose Room
9:05 AM RCIA, Social Hall
1:00 PM Baptism Class, John XXIII Church
4:00 PM Choir Practice, CH
4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM
7:00 PM Dessert Showcase, SH

MONDAY, December 7

6:30 PM Board of Ed, PC

TUESDAY, December 8

11:30 AM St. Monica Circle, Elk's Club
5:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6:30 PM
7:00 PM Finance and Administration, PC
7:00 PM Fall Bazaar Mtg, PC

WEDNESDAY, December 9

12:00 PM Senior Dinner, SH
1:30 PM St. Anne Circle, SH- Multipurpose Room
5:00 PM Senior High Youth Night, PC
5:15 PM Early Session Religious Education, SC
5:15 PM Good Shepherd Night, SC Cafeteria
6:45 PM Late Session Religious Education, PC-SC-SH
6:45 PM Good Shepherd Night, SC Cafeteria

THURSDAY, December 10

10:00 AM Legion of Mary, PC
7:00 PM HF St. Ludmila Center Christmas Concert, CH

FRIDAY, December 11

7:00 PM Pro-Life Hour of Prayer/Mtg, CH

SATURDAY, December 12

Retired Religious Appeal
6:30 AM Church Cleaning, Leader Paula Fries
7:00 PM Breath of Soul Concert, CH

SUNDAY, December 13

Retired Religious Appeal
9:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH-Multipurpose Room
9:05 AM RCIA, Social Hall
4:00 PM Choir Practice, CH
4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM

C/CH: Church, PC: Parish Center, SC: School, SH: Social Hall

The Senior Citizens Group will meet Wednesday, Dec 9, at noon for our Christmas Party potluck in the Church Social Hall. The turkey will be provided. Please bring a dish to fill out the Christmas menu. We will have a gift exchange of \$5 or less and you can bring an item for the food bank. Our program will be the Holy Family students performing their Christmas concert for us. Everyone is welcome to come and share our delicious food and holiday spirit.



Members of St. Anne's Circle are invited to the Senior Citizens potluck at noon, Wed, Dec 9 and to attend the Christmas program following the potluck. Circle meeting will be at 1:30 PM in the Social Hall Multi-purpose Room. There will be no Circle gift exchange or cookie exchange.

All ladies of the St. Ludmila Parish are invited to the Altar & Rosary Society annual potluck on Mon, Dec 14 in the Social Hall. Social time begins at 5:30 PM and dinner at 6 PM. Layette items and monetary donations will be collected for Aid to Women.