

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 14

St. John of the Cross

No Mass

Tuesday, December 15

No Mass

6:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 16

No Mass

Thursday, December 17

9:00 AM School Mass † Vernon Schulte

Friday, December 18

7:15 AM Mass † Jeanette Lechtenberg

Saturday, December 19

4:00 PM Mass † Cletus Wehr

Sunday, December 20

Fourth 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 14-18. Recitation of the Rosary 7:30 PM

Prayer Line: Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

Readings for the Week of December 13, 2009

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



Important Liturgies! Saturday, Dec 19 at 11 AM is our parish communal celebration of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

Christ humbled Himself by being born in a stable to join

us. We can return the favor by humbling ourselves, looking seriously at sin in our lives, and opening ourselves up to this gift from God! There will be twelve priests there so no waiting! Our children are celebrating their 1st Reconciliation this coming Wednesday evening. Pray for them, and your own desire to return to this Sacrament!

Lastly, the **Christmas Mass schedule** is 4, 6:30, and 10 PM on Christmas Eve, and 9 AM on Christmas morning. We will have sign up sheets for liturgical ministers for those Masses. Please look for them in the Gathering Space! Note that the 4 PM is always the most full, and also that saving seats is really not possible.



Holiday Special! is something we all see or hear as Christmas draws near. We look to get more for less as a result of it. In the Gospel it seems

John the Baptist is offering a holiday special of a different sort: MORE closeness to God, for LESS self concern. In each of his responses to those who ask "what should we do?" John invites them to take less for themselves, and in that experience their God more near to them. If our gift-giving includes those most in need, and they receive a little more, we may find ourselves with less to give close family and friends, but more reason for joy in God will have been shared. That is why I leave in the Gathering Space the missionary's magazines that invite us to take note of their basic needs, and why the Social Concerns committee offers the Giving Tree for local aid agencies. They are all opportunities for us to hold on to less, give more, and in that receive the experience of more joy in bringing Christ near. Thank you to all who participate so generously in these efforts! Please consider joining the Social Concerns committee. Give me a call and help us offer the Baptist's advice through the year! We can take the "holiday" out of "holiday special" and make each day a special opportunity for joy in Christ Jesus!

On Christmas we will celebrate the ultimate expression of "more for less" when Jesus gave up the ultimate MORE of life in the Trinity and accepted the absolute less of being born into our human nature, so that we might have the *more than we can imagine* of heaven with God. The Mass is central to expressing this exchange of human life for divine life because each time, Christ takes the less of bread and wine, and transforms it into the most wonderful gift of Himself. We seem to appreciate this at Christmas and the church fills up as a result of it. But it is the same incomparable gift of God at every Eucharist. For that reason alone, why we all don't come to Mass all the time is a mystery to me! On Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday weekend, its good to remind ourselves that this reason for joy, this source of joy in even the most trying of times is offered to us all through the year!

St. Paul is writing from prison in the 2nd reading. He calls his beloved Philippians to the basic attitude of all believers; a sense of joy that comes from the realization that, "The Lord is near." That's easier to do when things are going well; but they weren't going well for the Philippians. And they don't always go well for us. We can't drum up, or rouse a spirit of joy on our own. Paul knows that and so he encourages his community to pray: "... by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Our most complete prayer is the Eucharist! I hope all will make it even *more* of a priority at Christmas and thru the year to come!

I will be away on most of Tuesday to Thursday at the Good Leaders Good Shepherds training. Please note the changes to the daily Mass schedule. Fr. Tom

Donation for flowers during the Christmas season will be received at this time. You may use the flyer in last Sunday's bulletin, or drop an envelope in the collection basket indicating if you wish to donate in memory of a loved one.

The parish will be closing the Financial Books by the end of the first week in January. If you are planning a year-end contribution to "catch up" or just to express your gratitude to God, we would appreciate receiving such donations soon so we can get the financial statements out in a timely manner. Thank You! The Finance Council

The Parish Community extends its sympathy and prayers to the families of Jan Goodyear Lohman (mother of Mike Vosdingh) and Wesley Novak (husband of Kathleen) who recently passed away. May they rest in peace.



Appreciation

The Breaking Bread hymnals: Thanks to the advertisers in our Breaking Bread books, and to those inserted the ads inside the covers. Thanks to those who replaced the 2008 books with the 2009 ones on Thanksgiving morning!

Thanks to Susie Vecerka who sewed numerous new Purificators for use during our Masses.

Thank you to God's Housekeepers for the week of **Nov 29:** Gary/Mary Stodola, Brian/Carole Palas, Brett/Tara Simonsen, Dalton/Dakota Simonsen, Mindy Kranig, Alan Zaehringer, Bob/Loretta Claes. **Thank you to our parish volunteer secretaries** for the week of **Nov 29:** Laverne Fisher and Carole Ryan.

Ladies Night Out

Thank You to all who bought gift certificates to Stejskal Florist. Between the gift certificates & Ladies Night Out, \$3,700 was donated to help women in our parish & to the Social Concerns committee for their continued help through the year to those less fortunate. If anyone has a gift certificate that they have not sold or bought, please pay for it or return the certificate (if you are not going to buy it) to the Religious Ed office. Bless all who helped with this fundraiser!

Rite of Christian Initiation

Future Catholics and their parish sponsors will meet Sun, Dec 13 & 20 at 9:05AM in Social Hall

Children's Catechumenate will meet Sunday, Dec 13 and 20 at 9 AM in the Multipurpose Room in the lower level of the Church.

Articles for the Dec 27 bulletin must be to the Parish Office or sent by e-mail **no later than** Friday, Dec 18 at 12 PM. Questions? 362.8148.


The "Share in the Care" collection is being taken up this weekend to benefit the retirement needs of the men and women in religious orders in the US. Their needs are great since they earned little during their years of ministry in the schools, churches and hospitals. ALL religious order brothers, priests, sisters and monks and nuns will benefit from your donation.

"Give something, however small, to the one in need.

For it is not small to the one who has nothing.

Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."

(St. Gregory Nazianzen)



Welcome To Our Parish Family!

Daniel and Donna Dyson and family
Eric Himmelsbach

Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Wednesday, Dec 16 at 6:45 PM in the Church. All parents with children in this program are asked to be at the church by 6:30 PM.

Youth Ministry

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).

N.C.Y.C. - National Catholic Youth Conference

On the weekend of Dec 5-6, 3 senior high youth from St. Ludmila shared their reflections on N.C.Y.C. 2009 (which was held in Kansas City, Mo, on Nov 19-21) and discipleship at all the parish liturgies. A huge thank you to Carrie Darden, Cory Rude, and Rachel Flaherty for your fantastic faith witness as well as your openness, courage, and joyful spirit . . . we're very proud of you!

The final parish fundraiser for N.C.Y.C. 2009 was our Dessert Showcase held on Sun, Dec 6, and it was a great evening of story-sharing, food, and fun. Special thanks to Dawn Waite for creating our big slideshow/video and to parents Donna Brodsack, Kris Chambers, Patty Wiltgen for coordinating the desserts - you are truly appreciated!!

Holy Family and Xavier

Calling All Communities! US Cellular is once again sponsoring their million-dollar give away to schools. Many of last year's winners were small, Catholic schools. Kuemper High School in Carroll was one of those winners. Each of the ten winning schools gets \$100,000! This promotion started Nov 13 and runs through Jan 15, 2010. There are no purchases necessary; however, you do need to physically go into the store and get a voting code.

Type in the following link into your address bar:

http://www.uscc.com/uscellular/SilverStream/Pages/x_page.html?p=callingallcommunities

If you have any difficulty reaching the site, it is also listed on the voting card that you will receive when you stop in to a US Cellular store. **IMPORTANT:** When you get to the site, please know that unfortunately our 3 centers are listed individually. Therefore, in order to increase our chances of winning, the administration has decided to ask parents/family members to vote for Holy Family System-St. Jude Center. By doing so, this will pool all the votes for all 3 centers together. Should we win; the \$100,000 will go to the entire Holy Family School System. PLEASE REMEMBER NO MATTER WHAT CENTER YOUR CHILD ATTENDS, we ask that you continue to vote for Holy Family System-St. Jude Center.

Have you heard of School Cents? Lindale Mall is offering \$25,000 in prize money to area schools through School Cents, a program designed to assist schools with funding for their programs in need. Simply turn in your Lindale Mall receipts to help Xavier earn points from Oct 1 - Dec 31!! 10 points are earned for each dollar spent at all Lindale Mall stores and outside properties. 100 points are earned for each dollar spent at food merchants inside Lindale Mall. It's simple and easy - just turn in receipts dated Oct 1 - Dec 31 in a redemption box at Lindale Mall in center court (by the fountain) OR at the Collins Rd Hy-Vee or Xavier HS Main Office. The redemption box in the mall has slots designated for each school. When depositing receipts at Hy-Vee or Xavier, be sure to write 'Xavier' on the back of each receipt. If you wish to keep your receipts, just take them to Guest Services at center court to have your purchases recorded on the Point Pass Card for Xavier. Your receipts will be stamped so they can't be used again for points. TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES TOO – THEY CAN HELP! **Triple Point Weekend - Dec 18-20!** Receipts turned in on these dates will be worth triple the points. Receipts from the in-mall food merchants will not be tripled on these days.

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS



SUNDAY, December 13

Retired Religious Appeal

9:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH-Multipurpose Room

9:05 AM RCIA, SH

4:00 PM Choir Practice, CH

4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM

MONDAY, December 14

6:00 PM Credit Union, SH

6:00 PM Altar and Rosary Potluck, SH

6:30 PM KC Rosary, CH

6:30 PM Parish Council, PC

TUESDAY, December 15

5:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6:30 PM

6:45 PM Discipleship Council, PC

WEDNESDAY, December 16

8:00 AM Church Cleaning, Leader Mary Brecht

12:00 PM Senior Citizens Dinner, SH

1:30 PM St. Anne Circle, SH-Multipurpose Room

5:15 PM Early Session Religious Education, SC

6:45 PM Late Session Religious Education, PC-SC-SH

6:45 PM First Reconciliation, Church

6:30 PM Catechesis and Prayer Make-up, PC

THURSDAY, December 17

10:00 AM Legion of Mary, PC

12:45 PM Rosary Over Lunch, CH-Blessed Sacrament Chapel

FRIDAY, December 18

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

SATURDAY, December 19

11:00 AM Communal Reconciliation, CH

SUNDAY, December 20

Donut Sunday, Hosts: Altar and Rosary Society

9:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH-Multipurpose Room

9:05 AM RCIA, SH

11:30 AM Church Christmas Decorating, CH

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

All ladies of St. Ludmila are invited to the Altar & Rosary Society potluck on Mon, Dec 14 in the Social Hall. Social time: 5:30PM with dinner beginning at 6:00. Layette items/monetary donations will be collected for Aid to Women. Bring your table service & favorite dish to share.

The Senior Citizens Group will meet Wed, Dec 16, at noon for our Christmas Party potluck in the 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 and Christmas concert. 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.

<p>Church Christmas decorating will be Sun, Dec 20 following the 10:30 Mass. Come share your gifts!</p>
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