

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius

No Mass

Tuesday, December 22

6:00 PM Mass † Shirley Strauel

Eucharistic Adoration following 6 PM Mass

Wednesday, December 23

St. John of Kanty

7:15 AM Mass † Jeanette Lechtenberg

Thursday, December 24

4:00 PM Mass † Clement Joseph Philipp

6:30 PM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

10:00 PM Mass Personal Intention

Friday, December 25

The Nativity of Our Lord

9:00 AM Mass † Bill Davis

Saturday, December 26

St. Stephen

4:00 PM Mass † Don Miller

Sunday, December 27

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:00 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

10:30 AM Mass Personal Intention

Pilgrim Statue in the home of:

John/Mary Kaufman - 7124 Chelsea Dr NE

Dec 21-25. Recitation of the Rosary 7:30 PM

Prayer Line: Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

Readings for the Week of December 20, 2009

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Sg 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

Thursday Vigil:

Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or

Mt 1:18-25

Thursday Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Friday Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Friday 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

Please join with other parishioners in decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, Dec 20. We can also use some help moving chairs upstairs. Bring the whole family! We will start at approximately 11:45 AM. Snacks will be served.

Aware that incense irritates some allergies, it will be used minimally to bless the crèche at the 6:30PM Christmas Eve Mass. Other Mass times are 4 & 10PM, with Christmas Day Mass at 9AM



“Blessed are you who believed that that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

As we begin this last week before celebrating the birth of our Savior, it's important that we make Elizabeth's joyful proclamation our own. Isn't what makes Christmas more than a few days off work or school, or the focal point of a consumer-driven economy, *whether one believes, or not?* Not only believe that Jesus was born, lived, died, and rose 2000 years ago, but believe in God's individual action in my little life! Believe that I am Elizabeth, honored all the time by those who bear Christ coming to my door! Or that I am Mary: gestating within an ever more mature Christ, letting God guide me to those who need the joy of His presence. Or that I am Joseph: making room for belief in God's mysterious workings when the circumstances make that nearly unreasonable! Or, that I am Bethlehem of the first reading: faithfully living out my years with trust in God's promises, but no life changing fulfillment of them, patiently waiting because God is trustworthy?

There are great public debates about keeping Christ in Christmas. In these remaining days before it arrives, Elizabeth invites us to take the public debate to a very personal place. I hope you will reflect on the first chapters of Luke's Gospel, and consider what you believe in light of the desire of God to be with you and I, revealed in the mystery of the Son of God, born of Mary. It's a surprising way to join heaven and earth! But doesn't the surprising nature of God's plan, make believing *in the midst of my unknowns*, a little more possible? Whatever about Christmas crèche's on courthouse lawns, **belief in Christ, and living in Christ** will keep Him in your Christmas. Fr. Tom

Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Pius: Monday, Dec 2 at 7 PM. Other special times this Sacrament of God's mercy will be offered at St. Ludmila are: Sunday 12/20 at 2 PM, Monday 12/21 at 2:30 PM, Tuesday 12/22 before Mass at 5:30 PM and again after from 6:30-8:30 PM, and Wednesday 12/23 at 12:00 noon. I'll be in the Reconciliation room (to the left of the Font) from the indicated starting time for 45 minutes or until all present are heard. Tuesday evening I will be there continuously from 6:30 to 8:30. If the candle is lit and the door is ajar, please come in.

“Share in the Care” collection benefits the retirement needs of the men and women in religious orders in the US. You may use the envelope provided last Sunday, or your own. ALL religious order brothers, priests and sisters and nuns will benefit from your donation.

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

Flood Recovery Information--Block By Block

The Block-by-Block Program began in fall 2009 and will continue as long as funding and volunteers are available. UMCOR is a major leader/coordinator. This program works with the consenting residents of one flood-damaged block to repair, rebuild, clean, beautify, and "love" the block. When the work is completed, the group moves on to another designated block.

Catholic Charities local volunteers are active participants and completed work on two Thanksgiving Homes last month. In the future, our local Catholic volunteer teams will have the opportunity to accept additional Block-by-Block assignments, either small repair projects or total home rebuild projects (after electrical and plumbing is done). If you would like to be part of this ministry of hope and recovery, e-mail Terina, Catholic Charities Disaster Volunteer Coordinator at: dbqcccdsc1@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us

Appreciation

Thank you to God's Housekeepers for the week of **Dec 6**: Chet Sheetz, Gary/Mary Stodola, Janann Anderson, Kris Chambers, Carol Hayek, Bev Kotowske, Marilyn Schulte, Sandy/Mark Serbousek, Emery/Asa Tew, Linda Hoffman (from St. Pat's), Paula/Ted Fries. **Thank you to our parish volunteer secretaries** for the week **Dec 6**: Jeanne Ross/Esther Belle Steinbach.

Rite of Christian Initiation

Future Catholics and their parish sponsors will meet Sunday, December 20 at 9:05 AM in the Church Social Hall. RCIA will NOT meet December 27 nor January 3, 2010.

Children's Catechumenate will meet Sunday, December 20 at 9:00 AM in the Multipurpose Room in the lower level of the Church. They will not meet again until January 10, 2010.

Holy Family

Parents of children of pre-school and Kindergarten age for the 2010-2011 school year who are interested in having their children attend Holy Family school can call St. Ludmila: 362.1943 (3 & 4 year old pre-school, grades 3-4;) or St. Jude: 396.7818 (3 & 4 year old pre-school, Kindergarten through grade 2). You can also visit www.cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us and visit the St. Ludmila or St. Jude website.

Bulletin Articles for the Jan 3, 2010 bulletin must be to the Parish Office or sent by e-mail **no later than** Saturday, Dec 26 at 12 PM Questions? Contact Mary at 362.8148 or 846.3399.

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS**SUNDAY, December 20**

Donut Sunday, Hosts: Altar and Rosary Society
9:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH-Multipurpose Room
9:05 AM RCIA, SH
11:45 AM Church Christmas Decorating, CH
4:00 PM Choir Practice, CH
4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM

MONDAY, December 21

7:00 PM HF St. Ludmila Center Christmas Concert, CH

TUESDAY, December 22

9:00 AM Church Cleaning, Leaders Hal/Betty Schulze
5:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, December 23

No Religious Education Classes
12:45 PM Music Rehearsal, CH

THURSDAY, December 24

No activities/meetings scheduled

FRIDAY, December 25

No activities/meetings scheduled

SATURDAY, December 26

No activities/meetings scheduled

SUNDAY, December 27

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

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

KC Roast Pork/Dumpling Dinner today Sunday, Dec 20

• serving from 4:30 to 7 PM • Adults \$8, children 12 and under \$4 • Located corner of Mt Vernon Rd/Hwy 13

Dec 31-Jan 1 New Year's Retreat • American Martyrs Retreat House, Cedar Falls • Offering \$70 for adults, \$40 for young adults, \$35 for Dreamers • Theme: Discovering "Peace" in the New Year. An alternative opportunity to welcome in the New Year - time for listening, sharing, praying, being, and even socializing at midnight after Eucharist • Registration: 5 PM; Departure 11 AM on New Year's Day • Register by Dec. 28: 319.266.3543.

The Holy Family Falcon Night Committee is sponsoring a \$1,000 tuition raffle. Tickets are \$25 each or three for \$50. The drawing will be during Falcon Night on Feb 13, 2010. The winner need not be present to win; anyone is welcome to attend Falcon Night. The winner will receive \$1,000 credit toward the 2010-11 school year tuition at ANY Cedar Rapids/Marion Metro Catholic K-12 School, including Xavier. Contact Jana 390.4132 or Kileen 632.3031 if you have questions or need additional info. The raffle ticket form is available on line at:

<http://www.cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us/lasalle/index.htm>

Click on the "Tuition Raffle" tab to view & print the form. Send tickets with payment to: Holy Family Schools, Tuition Raffle, 3700 1st Ave NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

Attention RNs! Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids will be sponsoring the Basic Parish Nurse Prep Course, March 23-26, 2010. This course will consist of 33 contact hours to meet the ANA practice requirements for Parish Nursing. The cost is only \$100. Contact Anne Nugent at 221.8568 to register.

