

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 28

The Holy Innocents

**No Mass**

### Tuesday, December 29

St. Thomas Becket

6:00 PM Mass † Vernon Schulte

Eucharistic Adoration following 6 PM Mass

### Wednesday, December 30

7:15 AM Mass † Roszella Edgar

### Thursday, December 31

St. Sylvester I

5:30 PM Vigil Mass † James Klimesh

### Friday, January 1

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

World Day of Peace/New Year's Day

9:00 AM Mass † Bob Ormsby

### Saturday, January 2

St. Basil the Great; St. Gregory Nazianzen

4:00 PM Mass † Clement M. Philipp

### Sunday, January 3

Epiphany of Our Lord

8:00 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

10:30 AM Mass Personal Intention

### **Pilgrim Statue in the home of:**

Tim/Rose Gorton - 2575 Bullis Dr, Marion

Dec 28 - Jan 1. Recitation of the Rosary 7:30 PM

**Prayer Line:** Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

### **Readings for the Week of December 27, 2009**

**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

**Monday:** 1 Jn 1:5---2:2; Mt 2:13-18

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

**Friday:** Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

**Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**Baptism:** 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 is here at St. Ludmila on Sunday, Jan 19 from 1:00-3:00 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 refrains from celebrating Baptism during Lent (begins 2/17/10).**



**“Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”** are the words of Jesus to His parents in today’s Gospel. Jesus’ life is

already revealing the reason his Father sent him: he "must" fulfill his vocation. Today's passage shows Jesus initiating steps that will eventually take him away from the comfort of his loving (and as we learned today, somewhat bewildered) parents to be about the will of his Father. But as today’s Gospel ends He will return with his parents, be obedient to them, and "advance in wisdom." We thus see two important and formative institutions in Jesus' life--his home and his religion.

As a priest I often find myself saying the same: I must be in my Father’s house! And I’m very happy for that! On the feast of the Holy Family, I am struck by the way Mary and Joseph grounded Jesus in His fundamental relationship with His Father in heaven. Luke tells us, "Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover." They are devout Jews and will pass on their piety to their son. They provided Jesus with the tools of expressing and exploring God’s will for Him in prayer, and in the midst of God’s people. It’s a basic responsibility of all parents: introducing their children to God, and God’s people, and helping those relationships to grow. Was that a factor in Jesus' staying behind in the Temple, the devotion first instilled in him by his parents for that holy place?

I look at my own vocation and as you know, I was almost 30 when I recognized the call, so it is not like my parents drove me into it! But mom and dad did provide us with the tools to recognize a vocation when God called: the importance of prayer, familiarity with Church, a history of working alongside fellow parishioners for the good of all, the priority of financially providing for the church before their own comforts or our “extras”, and most of all their own example of lived faith. The holiness of our home was not within its members any more than anyone else’s! Eight siblings fought, lied, disobeyed, etc. just as much as any other family. Our family’s holiness rested in the priority and attention that Christ received. That is possible for every home. Please bring Christ into your home, and your home to Christ in the Eucharist!

We are in the midst of what Pope Benedict has named the “Year of the Priest.” Its purpose is to invite reflection on the role of the priest in the community of faith. You are far too generous with compliments and in every other way to me personally. You make me so very welcome here and I am grateful! That is not what this year is for. It’s about how you might welcome a vocation to service in the Church: priest, deacon, vowed Brother or Sister in your home? Is faith talked about, prioritized, encouraged, developed among you? I hope so!

I hope you had a most blessed and joy-filled Christmas. May our parish family’s holiness grow in 2010!  
Fr. Tom

**This time of year** with the need for sidewalk sand, etc., adds to the workload of those who volunteer to clean the church. Their gift of labor to the Lord saves our parish thousands of dollars. Even for these remaining winter months, would you consider joining one of these 4 groups of *once-per month* cleaning crews? Please call Karen Doyle 848.8108 for details.

### Appreciation

**Gratefully yours:** On behalf of the parish staff and for myself personally, a hearty THANK YOU to all who have offered us cards and well-wishes, or wonderful baked goods and other treats. I am even more grateful for the willingness of our parish staff and so many in so many ministries to give of themselves. In particular, the liturgical and music ministers put in extra hours practicing, setting up chairs, and decorating this beautiful worship space. I also want to thank the Social Concerns committee for all their organizational efforts with the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space, and to those who purchased items for it. Throughout this year made especially challenging by the economy, you as a parish have responded again and again with selflessness, generosity and faith! It is a privilege and a joy to count myself among the members of St. Ludmila Parish. May the New Year bring many blessings to all! Fr. Tom

**Thank you to** the Senior Citizens & St. Anne's Circle who came to our Christmas Party on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup>. It was still a cold day but we enjoyed a delicious dinner and entertainment. There were approximately 30 people who feasted on turkey and dressing and pies and the other good things that make a great holiday meal. Santa made an appearance to pass out the presents. The third graders from the Holy Family School sang some of their songs from their Christmas concert. They gave us a lovely concert and they were so excited when Santa came and talked to them. Thank you for sharing your talent with our seniors. Many thanks to all who helped make the day a success. Steve and Ann Picray prepared the turkey which was donated by FCSLA (Catholic Workman #137). The many helpers who took charge of things: Chet the music; Shirley the punch bowl; Esther Belle the gravy; Dick Manning the prayer; Sue Berger and elves the plates of goodies; and all the other elves that helped with the set up and clean up. It was greatly appreciated. Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year. Liz

**Thank you to** the Altar and Rosary Society for hosting "Coffee and Donuts" last Sunday.

**On behalf** of the Zimbabwe Project Committee, thank you to everyone who contributed to our Fall Collection and Kolach Bake. We are sending a check to Sister Laurette for \$6,000 to help with the projects at her school. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Victor Kies

**Thanks to all** who came last Sunday to decorate the church. To those who patiently arranged the lights on the tree; those who moved the Advent wreath to the window behind the altar; those who unpacked and arranged the Nativity scene; to those who vacuumed after the decorating; to those who carried chairs up to the church; and to those who returned them to the Social Hall.

**Thank you to** the helpers who came and stuffed the Christmas letter: Virginia Homewood, Don/Elaine Hensen, and Pete Kapfer. With the weather the way it was, it was a challenge to find helpers their help was appreciated.

**Thank you to God's Housekeepers** for the week **Dec 13:** Florence Moellers, Charity Schneekloth, Mary Brecht, Denise Pudil, Kelly Hiserote, Denise Benesh, Fran Musel, Rosanne/Natalie Sandersfeld, Jim/Lorilei Christner, and Joyce Janovec.

**Thank you to our parish volunteer secretaries** for the week of **Dec 13:** Darlene Chmelicek and Mickey Betz.

### Rite of Christian Initiation

**The RCIA** community will gather again on January 10 at 9:05 AM in the Church Social Hall.

**The Children's' Catechumenate** will reconvene on January 10 at 9:00 Am in the Multipurpose Room.



**Movie Time:** Sunday, Jan 10 at NOON in the Church Social Hall. Let's bring the Christmas season to a close by watching this "family movie" together: The Ultimate Gift.

Bring a snack to share

### ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS



**SUNDAY, December 27**

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

**MONDAY, December 28**

No activities/meetings scheduled

**TUESDAY, December 29**

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

**WEDNESDAY, December 30**

No Religious Education Classes

**THURSDAY, December 31**

No activities/meetings scheduled

**FRIDAY, January 1**

No activities/meetings scheduled

**SATURDAY, January 2**

No activities/meetings scheduled

**SUNDAY, January 3**

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

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

### Faith Formation

**Religious Education students** were sharing the spirit of giving in some special ways this year. The 9th grade sent letters of encouragement and gifts for the residences of the Willis Dady House and the Cedar House. The 6th grade classes held a bake sale and provided Christmas for 2 families in need. The early 1st grade class brought in toys for the Salvation Army give away and provided toiletries for the Willis Dady House. Other classes sent cards to our parishioners in the Care Centers and who are home-bound. Food was also collected for House of Hope and Catholic Worker House. Thank you to all who helped made this possible and brought the true meaning of Christmas to others.

**Religious Education classes will resume  
Wednesday, January 6.**

**A special thank you** to all of those who lead the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass.

### First Reconciliation

**Congratulations to these students who made their First Reconciliation on December 16:** Alec Brockmeyer, Collin Brockmeyer, Emily Brunscheen, John - Paul Buss, Payton Chapman, Brandon Charipar, Ryan Cook, Mariah Cookson, Parker Davison, Audrey Elliff, William Garner, Megan Gradoville, Clair Habel, Grace Healy, Brogan Heefner, Carmella Hernandez, Makenna Hewitt, Zachary Hilleman, Summer Howard, Daniel Jacobi II, Josie Jones, Katherine Kaufman, Isabella Koch, Jenna Leggat, Kerrigan Levi, Max Locher, Grace Lullmann, Morgan Norem, Cheyanne Ohlhauser, Chloe O'Shea, Kyle Pasker, Garrett Pientok, Anika Pisarik, Hailey Reiling, Maxwell Rohret, Audrey Scheel, Avery Schmidt, Jaslyn Stephen, Emma Svoboda, Alison Taylor, Claire Vlcko, Nicholas Weber, and Regan Wilkie.



### Sacramental Preparation

**Parents/Guardians of children** making their First Eucharist in April/May are to meet on Wednesday, January 6 in the Social Hall. You may choose to attend the 5:15 PM or 6:45 PM session. This meeting is mandatory with at least one parent/guardian attending.

**Please join us** for the March for Life on Sunday, Jan 17 from St. Matthew Church on 1st Ave to Planned Parenthood. Meet at 1PM - St. Matthew Church parking lot to march or at Planned Parenthood to join in the Pro-Life Rosary.

### Remembering Our Military



**During certain times of the year:** the season of Lent, May, July, September, November, and the Christmas season; you will find near the St. Ludmila statue votive area a table with the photos of parish family members in military service. We invite you to keep them in your prayers as they sacrifice their safety and time with family in service to us. If you have a direct family member you would like included in our memorial area, please contact:

Lori: [lorimcmann@hotmail.com](mailto:lorimcmann@hotmail.com) 721.6150 or  
Sue: [Susjmar@aol.com](mailto:Susjmar@aol.com) 366.1684

### Holy Family

**Parents of children** of pre-school & Kindergarten age for the 10-11 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 visit [www.cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us](http://www.cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us) and visit the St. Ludmila or St. Jude website.

**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:

[www.cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us/lasalle/index.htm](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

### From Our Children's Envelopes

These past weeks the kind deeds and prayers offered back to God who inspires all the good we do included -

Praying For:

- My grandparents
- My friend Veda
- Mary and Joseph



Kind Deeds:

- I helped decorate the Christmas tree
- I let my friends borrow stuff they need
- Unloaded the dishwasher twice

### In Our Community

**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.