

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 30

St. Andrew

No Mass

Tuesday, December 1

No Mass

6:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 2

No Mass

Thursday, December 3

St. Francis Xavier

No Mass

Friday, December 4

St. John of Damascus

No Mass

Saturday, December 5

4:00 PM Mass † Carroll and Marty Welsh

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

10:30 AM Personal Intention

Pilgrim Statue in the home of:

John/Deb Hennessey - 4200 Munier Rd; Marion

Nov 30-Dec 4. Recitation of the Rosary 7:30 PM

Prayer Line: Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

Readings for the Week of November 29, 2009

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12---4:2;
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26;
Mt 9:35---10:1, 5a, 6-8

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



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

Chase David Fisher

son of Mark and Jill Fisher;

Cobe Joseph Rideout

son of Brad and Emily Rideout.

Baptism Class will be offered at John XXIII Church on Sunday, December 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.



It is Advent! Important not because it signals that Jesus' birth is on the horizon, nor because its days are filled with sales and shopping for

expressions of love or how important one is to another. Advent is important because it provides us with a time of reflection on what Christ's birth 2000 years ago means to us now, and what it can mean for us when He comes again! Because Christ came first in the weakness of an infant to share our human lot, we can hope that when Christ comes again in power and glory, it will be a power shaped by mercy and understanding, and in a glory that He wants to share with us as well. Do make time in searching for those perfect gifts, to call to mind in how many different ways Jesus is the perfect gift for us! He is one with us, but can make us more than we are; He comes to us freely when we could never earn His presence; He unites us as one family when we have so much that we fight about! When I reflect on my weakness in light of my habitual sins, I find all the more reasons to see how perfectly Jesus fits my needs, and desires!

Mostly Jesus fits me because He gives me hope that I could get from no one else! In the reading from Thessalonians, and in the Gospel, we are advised to pray for strength! Strength that we might be alert and ready for the Lord's return. The more I'm aware of how I am weak in the face of sin, the more I appreciate the strength God offers. Strength to believe God loves me in the face of repeated failure, and strength to keep trying rather than just say "my sins are not that important."

Our daily Advent reflection in this bulletin is entitled "A Season of Surprises." There are the surprises that catch us off guard, and the surprises that unfold as we watch in rapt attention. I invite you to put some moments of silence and such attention to God, reflection on Jesus, and awareness of oneself into your Advent Season. May God grace you with surprising experiences of hope, strength, and joy to be discovered therein! Fr. Tom

Advent Hope is hope in Jesus, who the angel said was given that name because "He will save us from our sins."

On December 19 at 11:00 AM, we will celebrate as a community God's gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please give yourself and your family the gift of God's grace freely available in this Sacrament. Let Jesus "live up to His name!" Fr. Tom

Fall Bazaar was a wonderful success when one looks at the number of people who came and the initial receipts.

MY measure of success is in the hours of time and participation by so many St. Ludmila parishioners who donated crafts, cookies/pies, time, kolach baking, vendor goods, sweat in setting up and cleaning up, smiles of hospitality, and so much more. A special word of thanks to Victor Randolph, Karen Koenighain, Marian Samek, and Karen Billick for their leadership, and the Brecht family for cooking the food! Congratulations to all! Fr. Tom



Fr. James Blocklinger, former Assoc Pastor, celebrating his 70th Birthday and retirement on Dec 12. Please send cards to:
701 - 10th Street SE
Cedar Rapids IA 52403

Appreciation

Thanks to Don/Judy Kucera of CR Billiards for regluing our Sacramentary used at all Masses!

Thanks to all who were part of our Fall Clean-up day! The Iowa game was reason for a smaller but still mighty crew! **To** Bill Whitters Construction and Bill Lane Construction we are grateful for the equipment you made available!

Thanks to Chalupsky Landscaping for donating the hauling of the playground bark! **Special thanks to** the kitchen crew that brought great food and fed us generously!

We thank Glen/Kris Heims for making the grounds look so nice while charging very little all year long!

Thank you to our parish volunteer secretaries for the week **Nov 15**: Jeanne Ross/Kim Simoens

Thank you to God's Housekeepers for the week **Nov 15**: Karen Neuhaus, Mary Brecht, Denise Pudil, Kelly Hiserote, Denise Benish, Fran Musel, Rosann/Natalie Sandersfeld, Jim/Lorilei Christner, and Joyce Janovec.

Liturgy

The Adult Choir will be singing on Christmas Eve for the 10 PM Mass. Practices will be held on Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, beginning on November 22. If you love to sing, come and join us. High school students are welcome to come as well. Questions? Contact Linda Lehmann at 364.6876 or linda.lehmann@hotmail.com

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

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:

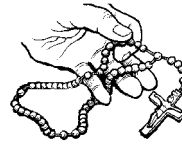
- For those killed at Fort Hood
- People who don't have friends

Kind Deeds:

- I cleaned my room and cleaned my playroom
- I helped my mom go get groceries
- I helped my neighbor



Rosary over Lunch



Are you looking for a way to incorporate the rosary into your daily life, but don't know where to start? Beginning Thursday, Dec 3 and continuing every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month. Join us in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 12:45 PM to pray the rosary over your lunch hour. Questions? 573.8382.

Rite of Christian Initiation

Future Catholics & their parish sponsors will meet Sun, Nov 29 and Dec 6 at 9:05 AM in Social Hall

Children's Catechumenate will meet Sun, Nov 29 and Dec 6 - 9 AM in the Multipurpose Room of the Social Hall.

Holy Family and Xavier

St. Francis Xavier Prayer Service: On Thursday, Dec 3 at 10 AM. Xavier will have a prayer service to celebrate St. Francis Xavier. Parents and the community are welcome!

All are invited to attend the Christmas Concerts at the centers of Holy Family Schools. St. Ludmila: Dec 10 at 7PM. St. Jude: Dec 15 at 7PM. LaSalle: Dec 17 at 7PM.

The Xavier Music Department invites you to come and enjoy our Christmas Program "Christmas with Xavier" which will be held at 5 PM on Sunday, Dec 13 at Xavier in the Ron Thillen Gymnasium. Come celebrate this glorious holiday season with the Xavier Music Department.

It makes sense to shop at Lindale Mall to support the Xavier Saints!!! You can help Xavier simply by shopping at Lindale Mall. Just turn in your receipts dated Oct 1st - Dec 31st in to the Xavier redemption box at Lindale Mall (near the center court fountain). If you'd rather keep your receipts, just have them stamped for Xavier H.S. at the Guest Services desk. Lindale Mall is offering \$25,000 to area schools through the School Cents program. This program is sponsored by KWWL Channel 7, WMT - FM Mix 96.5, and the Cedar Rapids Gazette. *Receipts turned in November 27 - 29, and December 18 - 20 will be worth triple points!* Thanks for your help in supporting Xavier.

N.C.Y.C. Dessert Showcase: The youth and young adults from St. Ludmila who attended N.C.Y.C. in Kansas City would like to invite parents, grandparents, and other interested friends and parishioners to our N.C.Y.C. 2009 Dessert Showcase on Sunday, Dec 6, at 7 PM in the Church Social Hall. Come and enjoy delicious treats as you watch a terrific slide show and listen to heartwarming stories of participants! Most meaningful and memorable experiences of N.C.Y.C. Tickets cost \$10 and may still be purchased in advance at the Parish Office in the Parish Center. After you purchase your ticket or if you purchased your ticket previously, please call to reserve your spot at the showcase by calling 362.8148 by Thursday, Dec 3 (feel free to leave a message with your name and the number of people in your party. Reservations are required! We'll look forward to seeing you on Dec 6.

Youth Ministry

National Catholic Youth Conference 2009: On November 19-21, 33 senior high and college youth and 8 adult leaders from St. Ludmila Parish joined with 21,000 other youth and their adult leaders from across the country for the 2009 National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City, MO. This biannual gathering of Catholic teens - which includes inspiring keynote speakers and musicians, exciting and challenging workshops, and uplifting liturgy and prayer - provided a fantastic opportunity for the young Church to celebrate our Catholic faith. The youth participants from our parish were: Jason Beer, Laura Birky, Lindsey Blair, Matthew Brodsack, Bethany Chambers, Courtney Chambers, Carrie Darden, Levi Detert, Rachel Flaherty, Brandon Gradoville, Nikkie Hernandez, Sydney Hiserote, Bridget Karnik, Kelsey Kuba-Tresnak, Sam Manternach, Jacob Meyers, Maddie Myers, Kenzie Philipp, Richie Richardson, Cory Rude, Jared Smith, Kayla Waddell, Sami Wehr, Mike Wiltgen, Rachel Wiltgen, and Stephanie Winders. The young adult participants from our parish were: Bo Anderson, Alison Brodsack, Tony Green, Mackenzie Manternach, Kelsey Simoens, Dawn Waite, and Laiken Whitters. The adult leaders from our parish were: Ryan Altieri, Rachel Craig, Erin Flaherty, Bob Gardner, Katie Gierut, Alex Koth, Amanda Venditti, and Kyle Webber. Congratulations to all these awesome teens, young adults, and adults for your willingness to step out in faith . . . we're proud of you! Please keep all of our N.C.Y.C. 2009 participants in prayer. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to everyone in our St. Ludmila community who supported our youth and young adults on this special pilgrimage . . . especially fundraising coordinators: Dan Green, Barb Manternach, Karen Billick, and our pastor, Father Tom McDermott - you are the best!

Young Adult Group meets every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at St. Pius Pastor's Hall from 7 PM to 8:30 PM Everyone from ages 18 to 40 are welcome whether you are married, single, or engaged! Meet new people; discuss aspects of our faith; and many social events too! Come be apart of this great experience in a safe community of young adults!

Catholic Singles Group offers men and women 18 years and older an opportunity to expand their social and spiritual life and to meet new friends. Contact Lori 447.9218 or by e-mail: lbyrne10@hotmail.com or Teresa at 210.1557 for more information.

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS



SUNDAY, November 29

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

MONDAY, November 30

No activities/meetings scheduled

TUESDAY, December 1

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

WEDNESDAY, December 2

5:15 PM Adult Faith Formation, PC
 5:15 PM Early Session Religious Education, SC
 6:45 PM Late Session Religious Education, PC-SC-SH
 7:30 PM Confirmation, PC

THURSDAY, December 3

10:00 Legion of Mary, PC
 12:45 PM Rosary over Lunch, CH-Blessed Sacrament Chapel
 5:00 PM Church Cleaning, Leader Carol Palas
 6:30 PM Liturgy Mtg, PC

FRIDAY, December 4

No activities/meetings scheduled

SATURDAY, December 5

5:00 PM Religious Education grade 6 Bake Sale, SH

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
 4:00 PM Choir Practice, CH
 4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM
 7:00 PM Dessert Showcase, SH

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

Help Make a Family's Christmas a Little Brighter! The 6th grade Religious Ed classes would like to invite you to our Bake Sale. We are raising money to help a family in need for Christmas. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience faith in a meaningful way, and we are inviting you to share in this experience. Join us following the 4 PM Mass on December 5 in the Social Hall. Kids can decorate cookies; play games; decorate a Christmas tree; and visit with Santa. You can place your votes for your favorite cake decorations; purchase raffle tickets for a family fun basket; and buy some delicious treats made by us. The cake auction will take place at 6:30 PM. Anyone wishing to donate items for the bake sale may do so Saturday, Dec 6 from noon to 4 PM in the Social Hall.



Hope to see you there!

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 the meal at 6 PM. Layette items & monetary donations will be collected for Aid to Women. If you are new to the parish or have never been able to attend before, A & R extends a special welcome to you.



Please bring your favorite dish to share.