

**3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2009**

FROM FATHER KUNKEL

Today's Readings
3rd Sunday of Advent
 Zep 3: 14-18
 Phil 4: 4-7
 Lk 3: 10-18

Readings for 12/20/09
4th Sunday of Advent
 Mi 5: 1-4
 Heb 10: 5-10
 Lk 1: 39-45

MASS INTENTIONS DEC. 14, 2009

Monday	9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	John Klein The Parish Penance Service
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Poor Souls
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Esther Kelly
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Jim Sadler
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Harriet Hession
Sunday	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Shirley Miller Jeanne & George Gay Esther Kelly

(SI) Special Intentions (B) Birthday (A) Anniversary
 (H) Health

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Each week's bulletin will list the names of person's known to be in ill health. Names are included in this listing by contacting the parish office. A name may be continued on the list, simply by calling the office.

Please pray for: Gloria Baronian, Catherine Beyer, Helen Blahus, Jeanette Burcham, Charles Crandall, Jerome Dolivka, Simon Driesen, Bill Duncan, Liz Fournier, Donna Friedman, Tammy Gilpin, Diana Glos, Melissa Griffin, Jerry Grim, Michelle Hall (Mark), Ellen Heaps, Jo Anne Heaps, Vida Hedrick, Gary & Cindy Hogan, Jessica Hynes, Agnes Kelly, Diana Keys, Tracy Knox, Bonnie LaPausky, Lorraine Heaps Lilley, Genevieve Dawn Lindley, Eddie Lott, Lisa Marroney, Bonnie Marzicola, Doug Mauzy, Richard Miller, Bonnie Morris, Don Ryan, Ian Sabia, Thomas W Scheiber, Wanda Smith, David Traskey, James E. Webb, James E. W. Webb, Michael Webb, Joseph Weidner, Richard Welling, Gary Williamson.

SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF 12/20/09

Ministry	Sat 4 pm	Sun 8 am	Sun 9:30	Sun 11:15
Priest	PH	LG	LG	HK
Lector	S Markowski	R McGraw	M Krechel	T Driesen
EM	S Pardo	A Chaney	C Yost	M Rudell
	M Washburn	J Siegmund	N Yost	C Hoopert
	M Gernand	B Weber	K Ayers	B Hoopert
	C Markowski	M McGraw	D Eakes	P Seneschal
Server	C Fender	K Stewart	S Plummer	M Griswold
	M Pitz	B Hubbard	N Krechel	A Kufera
	T Sersen	B Stewart	E Eakes	J Enriquez
Sacristan	A Roemer	D Hubbard	M Plummer	R Fonte

A common occurrence around Christmas Time is the appearance of children's letters to Santa Claus in the local paper. One such article contained the following examples. A boy named Woody writes, "Dear Santa, I have seven things and my brother Robbie has eight things. Please bring me one more thing." A boy named Grant put his order this way, "Dear Santa Claus, Tommy wants a bike and Sandy wants a doll and I'll take everything I can get. And I mean everything!"

Such letters would be funny if they weren't so sad. So many people have come to see Christmas as simply a consumer orgy, a time to get everything I can get. "What do you want for Christmas?" is one of the most commonly heard questions at this time of the year, followed in a couple of weeks by "What did you get for Christmas?" What would it have been like, I wonder, in the Massachusetts Colony in 1660, where the following notice was posted:

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE OBSERVATION OF CHRISTMAS HAVING BEEN DEEMED A SACRILEGE, THE EXCHANGING OF GIFTS AND GREETINGS, DRESSING IN FINE CLOTHING, FEASTING AND SIMILAR PRACTICES ARE HEREBY FORBIDDEN WITH THE OFFENDER LIABLE TO A FINE OF FIVE SHILLINGS.

Maybe that's a bit extreme, but let's think about it a minute. Is our contemporary observation of Christmas possibly a "sacrilege?" Do we desecrate what was intended to be a day of holiness and Christian love by turning it into a time of merchandising madness? How much of the real meaning of Christmas survives in our own personal experience of the feast?

What would happen if we lived in Massachusetts in 1660 and had to celebrate Christmas without exchanging gifts and cards and putting on the grand show that is so common today? Could we still enjoy the second greatest feast of the year? That's the question that our readings put before us this weekend. Zephaniah says, "Shout for joy, be glad and exult with all your heart. . . Why? Because "the Lord your God is in your midst." Paul repeats the theme, "Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again, Rejoice!" "The Lord himself is near!" St. Luke, in the Gospel, notes that "the people were full of anticipation wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah." These readings speak strongly of joy and excitement with no hint of exchanging presents, fine clothing, feasting or any other trimmings we usually associate with Christmas. So, this Sunday reminds us what Christmas is really all about.

This Third Sunday of Advent is known traditionally as Gaudete Sunday or Rejoice Sunday, and it functions as a sort of "dress rehearsal" for Christmas. Today we light the third candle on our Advent wreath and ask ourselves if we are indeed ready to rejoice when the feast arrives. We might also ask if we are preparing to rejoice for the right reasons!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

The Christmas Flower Envelopes are available in the vestibule of the church. Remembering a loved one during this Christmas Season by helping to decorate our altars for Christmas is a special gift. Please remember to return your envelope by December 19th.



We would like to welcome into St. Mary's Faith Community: Mr. & Mrs. Richard N. MacEwan & sons.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of Paul L. Glackin by his family. If you would like to have a loved one either remembered or honored with a donation of flowers please call Sue Dieter at 410-836-1641.



HOME BLESSINGS FOR THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath Tradition

The word "Advent" means coming. Each year we enter into the four weeks of Advent preparing again for the coming of Jesus. We long to know Him with greater intimacy and closeness, so we prepare through penance, reflection and expressions of our longing for God.



Each evening we say a seasonal prayer and light a candle. The flame proclaims that Jesus, the Light of the World, will soon come.

Prayers

During the third week, light three candles – two purple and one rose – and pray:

Jesus, we know that you are coming soon. Our hearts rejoice that You are near. May that holy expectation lead us in the ways of your hope and love.

FINANCIAL REPORT DEC. 6, 2009

Envelopes Weekly	\$ 5,408.50
Offertory Loose	833.70
Capital Campaign Pledges	3,128.99
Poor Box	85.15
Envelopes Used	158
Attendance	564

CHRISTMAS AND YEAR END GIVING

Christmas marks the ULTIMATE GIFT – God's gift of His only son, Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus we remember that the three kings or wise men followed the star to bring gifts to the new born King; the beginning of gift giving.

We must also consider all the gifts God has bestowed upon us during the year and we must remind ourselves that we are merely stewards of these gifts. This presents to us a very special spiritual opportunity to make a return to God for His many blessings - a true Gift of Faith. These opportunities include our time, talent and treasure.

After prayerful thought and consideration please remember your parish, St. Mary's, at Christmas. Give your gift based on faith and the blessings you have received this year. Thank you for your generosity.

Year end gifts for the year 2009 must be in the office by December 27, 2009 to be recorded as a gift for this calendar year. Again, thank you for all you do for St. Mary's

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT 2009

If you would like a contribution statement for calendar year 2009 please call Barbara, Ext. 11 or fill out this form and return to the office. Contribution statements **will not automatically be mailed. You must request one.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

CSZ: _____

Phone #: _____

MILITARY FAMILIES

The following are names of parishioners or their relatives who are currently serving our country in the military. May they feel the support and comfort of the prayers we offer for them.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Aaron Benjamin Leyko | Ensign Karen Twigg Ritchie |
| PFC James Borchardt | Major Randy Staab |
| Lt. Joseph Healy | MS Rose Leftridge |
| Michael Rezabek | Capt. Nate Koss |
| Sgt. Benjamin Yost | PFC Derek Knight |
| HM3 Christopher Baker | CPO James Fish |
| Capt. Craig Richters | Colonel William Fowler |
| James Wheeler | PFC James Hale |
| CPO Anthony Clavijo | SPC Sam W. Balzanna III |
| PZ2 Robert Thacker | AC Julia R. Gerick |
| Capt. Timothy Monaghan | Sgt. Matthew Warne |
| Private Vance Chapman | Anthony Cirillo |
| Sgt. Donnie Billin | Private Jason Snyder |
| Master Sgt. Richard D. Hughes | Daniel Culver |
| Lt. Scott Hebert | 2 nd Lt. Charles Gruver |
| SGT. Eric Hoopert | PV2 Emril Getscher |
| MSgt. Larry Goulden | LCPL Joseph M. Wheeler |
| Major Sean Wilson | Sgt E-5 Harry Patterson |
| Pv. Samuel Bursell | Zachary Paup |
| Lt. Col Neil Salkowski | MM2 Michael Nicke |
| PVT Estee Lawrence | PRAN Richard D. Awalt 3rd |
| PFC James Raab | 2 nd Lt. John Regan |
| Jeff Markowski | 2 nd Lt Jenny Stewart |
| 2 nd Lt Joseph Krick | |

Please remember in your prayers the brave men and women serving in our Armed Services. Pray for them, their families, for their safe return and peace. If you have loved ones serving in the military at this time of crisis, please call the parish office 410-879-4015 ext. 10.

PARISH FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Will resume on January 12th & 13th. Wishing your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Make plans to attend all or some of our parish Advent Activities.

COMING SOON

– MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



Dec. 20th – Jesus' Birthday Bash – 10:30 to 3:00 p.m. Activities begin in the Hall after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. So parents get some last minute things done and leave your children and teens with us. 1st thru 3rd graders will be performing the main part of the Pageant. All older youth can choose to be in one of the following: Pageant choir, choreographed dance routine/skit, stage hands, craft helpers, instrumental performance (bring your instrument and Christmas sheet music, or help with little ones).

Parents/family and fellow parishioners of any age you are invited to come at 3:00 p.m. to the Parish Hall to watch the children and older youth of the parish present our annual Christmas Pageant. After the pageant we will share a potluck supper (Bring a main dish and a side or dessert to be shared) and birthday cake!!! All youth are invited to participate.

YOUTH MINISTRY

JAM-Junior High (6-8 Grade)

Drop in Nights (2nd Friday of each month)

KFC – Senior High (9-12 Grade)

Drop in Nights (3rd Saturday of each month)

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAM –Junior High (6-8 Grade)

Jan 8th – P.J. Party/Movie Night 7-10 p.m. in the new Youth Room!!!

Jan. 15th – Visit the Bel Air Senior Housing.

Jan. 22nd – Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship at the Delta Rec. Center. For guys and gals ages 10-14. Give it a shot. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. to register.

Jan 30th – Ice Skating Party at Ice World – 7-10 p.m. cost is \$14.00 per person includes drink, slice of pizza, skate rental and 2 hours of skating fun.

KFC – Senior High (9-12 grade)

Jan. 12th Vocation Sensation – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Join us for pizza and Seminarians presentation.

Jan. 15th Visit Bel Air Senior Housing.

Jan. 16th – P.J. Party/Movie Night 7-10 p.m. in the new Youth Room!!!

Jan. 28th – March for Life- for more information call Cathy Smith at 410-692-2932.

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP



The dates are June 20-26, 2010 in Lancaster PA. For those incoming 9th graders (Sept. 2010) – 12th grade, Young Adults, Adults. Your non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 secures your spot. Please turn in a "Dare to Care" reservation form found in the Fall YM Newsletter or in the back of church to the Youth Ministry mailbox. Students will be encouraged to raise the other \$150.00 by using a sponsor letter to ask family, friends, and businesses to help them reach their goal. There is some limited scholarship money available for those with financial hardships. Please call Ms. Rachel for more info. Please do not let the cost deter your teen from going. God will make a way!!

Adults who would like to journey and serve with us please fill out a reservation form also. More paperwork will follow later in the winter. Let us go make a difference!!

PARISH ACTIVITIES

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR!! CHRISTMAS

Food Sorting Fri. 12/18 7 to 9 p.m.
Food Distribution Sat. 12/19 8:45 a.m. to noon



Bring a friend - The more the merrier. Any questions call Norm Yost 410-836-1977 or e-mail nyaugust@aol.com.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Monday, December 14, 2009

6:30 p.m.G.I.F.T
7:30 p.m.Parish Penance Service
7:30 p.m.Knights of Columbus
6:00 p.m.Belles of St. Mary's

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

6:30 p.m.High School FF
7:00 p.m.RCIA
7:00 p.m.Finance Mtg

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

6:30 p.m.Cont. Music

Thursday, December 17, 2009

5:30 p.m.Inst. & Small Groups
6:45 p.m.Cantor Practice
7:30 p.m.Choir

Friday, December 18, 2009

7:00 p.m.Sort Food

Saturday, December 19, 2009

8:45 a.m.Holiday Food & Gift Distribution

Sunday, December 20, 2009

9:30 a.m.Jesus Birthday Bash
3:00 p.m.Covered Dinner & Christmas Pageant
5:00 p.m.Contemplative Rosary Concert

A CONTEMPLATIVE ROSARY BY BOB HURD



A Contemplative Rosary is a beautiful service combining the Rosary, scripture, meditation and music. On Sunday, December 20th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. we will celebrate the Joyful Mysteries. If you are looking for a little quiet, reflective time with beautiful music, please join with the St. Mary of the Assumption Choir as we pray the rosary in song. Is your heart prepared for our KING?

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

“Jesus’ Birthday Bash”

Sunday, December 20, 2009..... 3:00 P.M.
Contemplative Rosary – Bob Hurd – St. Mary’s Choir
Sunday, December 20, 2009 5:00 P.M.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Parish Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 14, 20097:30 P.M.
Confessions: Monday, December 21, 2009 9:30 A.M.
.....7:00 - 8:00 P.M.
Tuesday, December 22, 2009..... 9:30 A.M.
..... 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2009

4:00 P.M.Church
4:00 P.M.Hall
6:00 P.M.Church
6:00 P.M.Hall
8:00 P.M.Church
11:30 P.M.Church
(all are invited for caroling)
12:00 A.M.Midnight Mass in Church

CHRISTMAS DAY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2009

10:00 A.M.Church

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, December 31, 2009.....4:00 P.M.
Friday, January 1, 201010:00 A.M.

The Parish Offices will be closed from Thursday, December 24, 2009 until Monday, December 28, 2009. Also, Thursday, December 31, 2009 until Monday, January 4, 2010.

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

Please see the following text on the 2nd “Little One” poster in the vestibule of the church:

Second Month (size about 2 inches)

The developing baby is now called a “Fetus” which is Latin for “Little One”. She is making rapid progress developing all her external and internal organs. During the second month baby teeth form; fingers and toes are developing. Ears, nose, lips and tongue can now be clearly seen. Brain waves can be recorded. The skeleton changes from cartilage to bone. Forty muscle sets begin their first

exercises. This Little One can now suck her thumb. By 8 weeks all body systems are present.

PARISH CENTER KEYS



Please contact Barbara, ext. 11 if you need a Key to the Building. A list will be made and then distributed as soon as the Keys are available.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – CHRISTMAS SEASON

Altar Servers, Sacristans, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Ushers – Please write your name on the Christmas Mass, Weekend, and New Year’s Sign-up sheets posted on the Bulletin Board in the Vestibule of the Church as you leave Mass today.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT WHITEFORD MEETING

You are invited to an important meeting of the Harford County Government Whiteford, Cardiff, Pylesville, Street Community Council on December 17, 2009 at 7:00p.m. Linda Tipton, Public Affairs Manager of Delmarva Power, will discuss reliability issues in the service area and plans to improve service. The meeting will be held at Highland Senior Center, 708 Highland Rd., Street, Md.

“CHRISTMAS IN THE GROVE”

Presented by Highland Presbyterian Church, on December 20th at 6:30 p.m. at 701 Highland Road, Street Md.



A tent will be constructed in Highland’s grove where you will be able to see and hear the Christmas story beautifully told in narrative, acting, and song. Live animals in the stable and the singing of Christmas carols enhance this dramatization of that first Christmas. Seating will be straw bales or you may bring lawn Dress warmly. To help those in need, please bring one canned food item for the Mason Dixon Food Pantry. Refreshments will be served in the church hall after the program.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Mt. Nebo Church again opens its doors for the Community Christmas Day Dinner. This meal is open to anyone who needs a hot meal, or is lonely and in need of fellowship on Christmas Day.

Meal preparation begins at 8:00 a.m. and meals are packaged and delivered at approximately 11:00 a.m. to elderly, homebound, or needy individuals and families.

The workers then gather and have Christmas devotions followed by their own Christmas Dinner. Anyone can come to this dinner. If you are alone or have any need during the holiday, join us for this special meal. No one is turned away and there is no charge for the meal or for delivery.

If you know of someone who is in need of a meal, would like to come to the meal, or would like to help prepare the meal please call Virginia Wise at 717-456-5744.

Mt. Nebo Church is located at 962 Flintville Road, Delta. The building is handicap-accessible and has ample parking.