

**2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2009**

FROM FATHER KUNKEL

**Today's Readings
2nd Sunday of Advent**

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

**Readings for 12/13/09
3rd Sunday of Advent**

Zep 3: 14-18
Phil 4: 4-7
Lk 3: 10-18

MASS INTENTIONS DEC. 7, 2009

Monday Holy Day Eve	9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Joseph Paine Jim Sadler
Tuesday Holy Day	9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Phyllis Wineke Kenneth Trzcinski
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Poor Souls
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Joseph Goulden
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Tom Pigg
Sunday	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Esther Kelly Thomas Plaskowitz Ruth Reichard

(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 12/13/09

Ministry	Sat 4 pm	Sun 8 am	Sun 9:30	Sun 11:15
Priest	HK	LG	LG	PH
Lector	S Markowski	V Nowak	J Edwards	T Palazzo
EM	B.A. Kloch	A Chaney	L Hall	M Rudell
	J Poole	B Nowak	N Yost	M Payan
	B Mank	D Walther	J Bowman	M Palazzo
	C Markowski	J Walther	D Rogers	M E Fonte
Server	J McAvoy	B Stewart	J Devereux	D Hall
	M Miller	K Stewart	K Dieter	N Cicero
	A McAvoy		J Roman	C Cicero
Sacristan	M Miller	K MacKey	M Roman	K Fonte

There was a Peanuts cartoon which featured Lucy going around asking all her friends to sign a document she had composed. "Sign this," she tells Linus, "it absolves me from all blame." After he signs, she thanks him and goes to Schroeder at his piano. "Sign this, please," she asks, "it absolves me from all blame." Then to Marcie, "Sign this will you? It absolves me from all blame. Thank you." Then to Charlie Brown, "Sign this please . . . It absolves me from all blame." "I don't understand," Charlie protests. "Just sign it," Lucy insists. "That's right. Thank you." As she walks away, Lucy explains, "No matter what happens any place or anytime in the world, this absolves me from all blame!" Charlie Brown's final comment is, "That must be a nice document to have!"

It seems that many Catholics have found such a document. They're absolved from all blame about anything in their lives. It's not their fault; they have no guilt; they have no sin; and so they don't need the Sacrament of Forgiveness anymore. That presents us with a very serious problem! Here we are in Advent waiting for our Savior, and we don't know why we need one!

If a person has no need of forgiveness, no use for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, it seems that Christmas becomes a rather meaningless feast, at least religiously speaking. Where we must start is with the fundamental fact that we still need conversion. Our culture encourages us so often to "get it all together" that we can easily begin to pretend, even to ourselves, that we actually "have it all together." But as one wit put it, "If you've got it all together, what's that lying all around you?"

Our lives are indeed messy and disordered and imperfect or, as an earlier age would have said, our lives are sinful. Christians are not perfect people; we are always forgiven sinners, still in need of further repentance and growth in Christ. We forget that at our own peril. If we're honest we can all find habits, attitudes and patterns of behavior that mark us as different from Jesus, that keep God's love from being shown through us. We know, deep down, where we're not yet really converted. (If you're not sure where your sinfulness lies, just ask your spouse, your children, your parents or your coworkers. They will surely be able to tell you!)

Now, let me offer you two points of reassurance if you have any more concerns. First, the basic procedure for using the Sacrament of Reconciliation hasn't changed all that much. Second, every priest I know will be more than glad to lead you through it; just tell him you're not sure what to say, and he'll guide you from there. This Sacrament is not something to fear but an opportunity to experience the great love of God! Relax, we have a Father who is very understanding and will not condemn us! Come, rejoice in his Love!

**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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of James Hayes on the anniversary of his death from wife and family. Also in memory of Chris Blimline on his 35th birthday by Mom & Dad. 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.



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – DECEMBER 8, 2009

Eve of the Holy Day, Monday, December 7th Mass at 7:30 p.m. and on the Holy Day, Tuesday, December 8th Mass: 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT NOV. 29, 2009

Envelopes Weekly	\$ 5, 767.50
Offertory Loose	909.27
Capital Campaign Pledges	740.00
Poor Box	126.02
Envelopes Used	195
Attendance	667

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 #: _____

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 second week, light two purple candles at mealtime and pray:

Lord, may our hearts be set on You and Your will. Help us to always echo the words of Mary at the Annunciation, That the will of the Father may be done in our lives.

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)

JOINT EVENTS

Dec. 11th – Operation Christmas Spirit – Come join us to spread some Christmas cheer to the residents of Rock Spring Assistant Living. If you play an instrument, please bring it and share a Christmas song with the residents. Join us for caroling & fellowship. Car Pool leaves St. Mary's at 5:45 p.m.

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

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Council would like to create a Welcoming Committee who would be responsible for, as you might guess, welcoming new parishioners to our Church and guiding the new person, couple or family. Through making them aware of all that St. Mary's has to offer and answering any questions they might have, this committee would ensure that our new members are brought securely into the St. Mary's fold. If interested in being part of this committee please contact the office to leave your name and number so we can get back to you.



THE GIVING TREE

The annual Christmas Giving Tree is now up in the Church and will remain until December 13th. The tree will be decorated with hand-made ornaments, containing information about the wishes of our families in need. When you take an ornament and purchase the gift for that family, please place the ornament on the package and return it to the foot of the tree as soon as possible, or before December 13th. Your gifts in the past years have given much joy to those in need. Thank you as always for your generosity.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR!! CHRISTMAS

Food Collection	Sat & Sun 12/12 & 12/13
Food Sorting	Friday 12/18 7 to 9 p.m.
Food Distribution noon	Sat. 12/19 8:45 a.m. to



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

GIVE AN EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT

How can you combine the celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas?

If you enjoy good health that is a great reason to be thankful.

Hate to shop for Christmas gifts? Combine Thanksgiving and Christmas by making a life saving difference in the lives of three people. What a gift!

How? Donate blood at our next Bloodmobile on Thursday, December 10th between 1 & 7 p.m. here at St. Mary's. To give that life saving gift make an appointment now. In MD call Theresa Driesen @ 410-457-0451 or in PA call Janice Bowman @ 717-382-4198

INVESTMENT CLUB UPDATE

We only have December and January to sell the tickets for the investment club, so far we have sold 271 of 400 we need to sell in order to put the cushions in the church. If anyone can help us by buying a ticket for \$20.00, we only need to sell 129 more. Please help us to reach our goal. Call the office ext 10 or Lois Fritz 410-692-5949 or Joyce Gosnell 410-879-0979.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Monday, December 7, 2009

7:30 p.m.Eve of Feast Day Mass

7:30 p.m.Scripture Study

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.Feast Day Mass

6:30 p.m.High School FF

7:00 p.m.RCIA

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

6:30 p.m.Cont. Music

Thursday, December 10, 2009

1:00 p.m. Bloodmobile

5:30 p.m.Inst. & Small Groups

6:45 p.m.Cantor Practice

7:30 p.m.Choir

7:00 p.m.Pastoral Council Mtg

7:30 p.m.Boy Scout Committee

Friday, December 11, 2009

5:45 p.m.YM "Operation Christmas Spirit"

Saturday, December 12, 2009

.....Casserole Pans Returned

.....Grocery Bags Returned

.....Archdiocese Collection Retired Religious

Sunday, December 13, 2009

.....Casserole Pans Returned

.....Grocery Bags Returned

.....Archdiocese Collection Retired Religious

6:30 p.m.Boy Scouts

WINNERS OF TURKEY SHOOT

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who participated in our Turkey Shoot on November 22, 2009. The turn out was great and everyone had a great time. The winners of the Pop Shot Targets were as follows:

20 + lb Turkey – Charlie Michals, Erika McLaine, Jimmy Thompson, Susan Sidlik, Mike Meadowcroft, Patrick Messics, Theresa Lutz.

Silver Label Hams – Mrs. Kunkel, Larry Tribull

5 lb Jumbo Shrimp – Donna Friedman, Dan Bennitt, Marty Rude..

"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS"

POSTER CONTEST

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Children in grades K thru 8th grade are eligible to participate. Completed posters are due by the weekend of Dec. 12th / 13th. Collection boxes will be in the vestibule of church. They will be judged on Monday Dec. 14th. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners in each grade level.

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.