

**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29 2009**

FROM FATHER KUNKEL

Today's Readings

1st Sunday of Advent

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

Readings for 12/06/09

2nd Sunday of Advent

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

I have a little verse for you, just four lines. So read them very carefully.

Yesterday is history.
Tomorrow is mystery.
Today is a gift.
That's why we call it the present!

So what are we going to do with this marvelous present that God keeps giving us? Will we fritter it away? Will we let it slip through our hands? Will we have nothing left when our present is all used up?

Just four weeks from now, on the day after Christmas, as we take down the tree, pack up the ornaments, clean up the mess, and look with incredulous eyes at the mountains of bills, will our hearts feel empty? Will we feel disappointed and somehow betrayed? Will we be wondering what all that shopping and cooking, decorating and dressing up was for? The answer to all that is not for fate to decide! It's for us to decide!

What happens to us on December 26 - and how we feel then - hinges on our remembering now what all the shopping, cooking, and decorating are really all about. And what they're really all about is building communion! All the work of Christmas is about renewing the bonds that bind us to one another and to the Lord! All the work of Christmas is about reweaving the ties that have been strained or broken, and reaching out to build new bonds, new ties! If we remember that, we'll know inside how to handle "The Present" these next four weeks.

The gifts we buy will make sense in the larger scheme of things. How we decide to spend these days and how we decide not to spend them will make sense. And so will the way we are hosts, and the way we are guests - reaching out and pulling everyone inside the circle of our care and concern. Then, it will indeed all make sense - if only we remember!

The calm we keep at our center during these busy days will tell all who see us that we know what "Our Present" is about, that we know what truly matters and what does not! And because of that, we ourselves will be a special gift to those who know us. Today is a gift, and that is why we call it "The Present." May none of us forget that as this wonderful season begins to unfold!

ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of mother, Alice Morris, father Lawrence Morris, sister JoAnn Kane, niece Shiela Morris Wilkerson, brother Tommy Morris by Larry, Connie & Bonnie. In memory of Marshal "Jake" Jones on the anniversary of his death by his wife & 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.



MASS INTENTIONS NOV. 30, 2009

Monday	9:00 a.m.	Poor Souls
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Esther Kelly
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Mary Zerbo
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Stewart Family
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Guerriero Family
Sunday	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Anthony Griro Bill Vanik 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, Bernadine Janiski, 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 12/06/09

Ministry	Sat 4 pm	Sun 8 am	Sun 9:30	Sun 11:15
Priest	HK	HK	HK	PH
Lector	S Markowski	V Nowak	C Yost	Youth
EM	M Gernand	C Kiedrowski	N Yost	D friedman
	M Puskar	B Nowak	K Ayers	S Friedman
	C Markowsski	D Walther	L Hebertt	N Novicki
	T Angel	J Walther	L Panzer	G Dumer
Server	A Baliko	A Usselman	J Devereux	T Sersen
	M C Crist	B Hubbard	M Mislak	J Bitner
	M Crist		J Roman	H Bittner
Sacristan	G Angel	D Hubbard	M Roman	R Fonte



THE BOOK OF LIFE –

In memory of Paul L Glackin by his family. In loving memory of James, Richard & Jesse Verchow by Margaret Verchow



We would like to welcome into St. Mary's Faith Community: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cain & daughter.

BAPTISM



Through the Holy Waters of Baptism, we welcome into St. Mary's Faith Community...Brayden Matthew Warfield, son of Eric & Julie.

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

On the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent, the family gathers to bless the wreath:

Lord God, we, Your people, await the coming of the Savior. Bless this wreath and grant that through its use we may better prepare for Christ's coming.

During the first week, light one purple candle at mealtime and pray:
Jesus, as we turn our minds to You, help us to focus on Your promise. Grant us the grace to repent of our sins and prepare for Your coming.

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.

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.

During the fourth week, light four candles at mealtime and pray:
Come, Lord Jesus, to each of us, to our family and to our world. We long for Your peace, joy and grace that bring new life.

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 | 2nd 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.

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 #: _____

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.

Who is Mary? That is a question on many minds as we approach the birth of her Son on Christmas. Come to reflect and share during this special adult education opportunity during Advent. Tuesday, December 15th at 7:30 pm in the Church.

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.

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 birth cake!!! All youth are invited to participate.

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

UPDATE: U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic Bishops continue to make the moral case for genuine health care reform that will protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

- ❖ On November 7th the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortion coverage.
- ❖ It is critical that the Senate adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment language on this issue. This Amendment ensures that Americans are not forced to pay for the destruction of unborn children as part of needed health care reform.
- ❖ The Senate must address other essential moral priorities: protecting conscience rights; making health coverage more affordable and accessible for those in need; and ensuring that immigrants do not lose or will not be denied health care coverage needed for the good of their families and the health society.

ACTION: Contact Senate and House Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters.

- ❖ To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.
- ❖ Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Full contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE – SENATE:

"Please adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment that upholds longstanding policies against abortion funding, and please protect conscience rights in health care reform; Health care must be made more affordable and accessible to those in need, and immigrants must not lose or be denied health care coverage."

MESSAGE – HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House-passed Stupak Amendment that upholds longstanding policies against federal funding of abortion. Please work to ensure that this essential provision is included in any final bill sent to the President."

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

Bags handed out	Sat & Sun 12/5 & 12/6
Food Collection	Sat & Sun 12/12 & 12/13
Food Sorting	Friday 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.

ST MARY'S LUNCHEON BINGO TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009 WE ARE BACK!!!!!!



Join us for a relaxing day of bingo and lunch here at St. Mary's. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and the low price of \$7.00 includes admission, lunch and a regular bingo packet of 16 games, 3 cards to a sheet. For a small additional fee special games and extra bingo packets can be purchased. The Menu for December 1st is:
Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Pineapple Stuffing, Carrots,
Biscuits & Christmas Cookies for dessert

Jack pot is \$175.00 in 53 numbers

We also need help on Monday & Tuesday. If you can give some of your time please call Nancy @ 410-692-6363, Pat @ 410-836-1891 or Cheryl @ 410-557-9157.

HEALTH CARE NOTES!! TOY SAFETY

Some toys can hurt children. Keep these tips in mind when you buy toys for Christmas.

- ❖ Don't buy toys with sharp edges or points.
- ❖ Don't give babies or toddlers toys with small parts.
- ❖ Select toys that are appropriate for your child's age. Check the package labels.
- ❖ Choose strong toys that won't break.
- ❖ Don't let small children blow up balloons. If a balloon bursts throw out the pieces.
- ❖ Don't buy toys that shoot or have parts that fly off.

To track toy recalls, sign up for e-mail alerts at the following web sites. www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx. Or www.kidsindanger.org/forms/form_mailing_list.asp

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 @ 410-457-451 or in PA call Janice Bowman @ 717-382-4198

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Monday, November 30, 2009	
6:30 p.m.	1 st Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, December 1, 2009	
10:00 a.m.	Luncheon Bingo
Wednesday, December 2, 2009	
10:00 a.m.	Bingo Meeting
7:00 p.m.	Youth Ministry Planning Mtg
6:30 p.m.	Cont. Music
Thursday, December 3, 2009	
.....	MOVING - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
5:30 p.m.	Inst. & Small Groups
6:45 p.m.	Cantor Practice
7:30 p.m.	Choir
Friday, December 4, 2009	
.....	MOVING - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday, December 5, 2009	
.....	Casserole Pans Distributed
.....	Grocery Bags Distributed
Sunday, December 6, 2009	
.....	Casserole Pans Distributed
.....	Grocery Bags Distributed
11:15 a.m.	CPW Mass
11:15 a.m.	RCIA Rite of Welcome
6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts

"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" POSTER CONTEST

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Children in grades K thru 8th grade are eligible to participate. Rules and blank posters will be handed ou at the Nov. 29th Advent Fair/Pancake Breakfast and in the vestibule of church. Look for the Knights table.

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS BAZAAR HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Saturday, December 12, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will have a Bake Table, Greens, Swags, and Wreaths along with Col. John Streett's Revolutionary War Chili. Lots of CRAFTS! CRAFTS! CRAFTS! Vendor spaces \$20.00 call Robin at 717-309-6324 for more information. All proceeds raised by Holy Cross Church benefit Holy Cross Outreach Programs.