

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sunday, December 16 ♦ Third Sunday in Advent

9:00 a.m. James & Patricia Manley Families
(Richard & Sharon Stilwell)

11:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Cross
Is 35:1-6, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Monday, December 17 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Marie & Jay Wishau – Wedding Anniversary
(Jack & Jan Kustron)

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday, December 18 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Deceased of Cullinan Family
(Jeanne C. Brown)

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday, December 19 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Patrick & Martha Walsh (Nancy Walsh)
Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25

Thursday, December 20 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. James & Patricia Manley (Jerry Manley)
Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Friday, December 21 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Kathleen O’Neill
(Our Lady’s Rosary Guild)

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18; Lk 1:39-45

Saturday, December 22 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Jim Ogle (James & Ann Reiser)
1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Sunday, December 23 ♦ Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:00 a.m. Patricia Manley (Steven Dewars)
11:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Cross

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

MASS SCHEDULING POLICY: In order to accommodate as many requests for specific dates as possible, we cannot schedule more than five at one time. Requests without a specific date are scheduled as openings permit. Please include the suggested offering of \$10.00 (for each Mass) when the request is made. Thank You!

+ **Please remember in your prayers** our homebound parishioners, and those who are ill: Hilda Barrett, Charles “Sonny” Bellamy, Sara Fingerlin, Holly Gardner, Marianne Garrison, Chris Igel, Jestina Jones, Edith Kowalsky, Ellen McMillen, Mary McNellis, Mary Miller, Mary Scholl, Msgr. Francis Schweitzer, Marilyn Scott, Sheila Shirey, Margaret Trainor, Helen Violet, Elizabeth Wanamaker, Elizabeth Webster.

THANKS !!!	
December 9, 2007 OFFERINGS	
Designated Collections (Funds forwarded directly to the Diocese)	Offertory \$2,296.00 Votives 21.00 Immaculate Concept ... 485.00 Repair 137.00
Mass Attendance 9:00 a.m.: 83 11:00 a.m.: 86	Less Tax (146.95) Net to Parish \$2,792.05

Congratulations!!

Prayerful best wishes to Ross Daly and Janet Kachinske, who will be married in our Parish Church this coming Saturday, December 22nd.

Religious Retirement Fund Collection

Thank you for the generosity and support of the Religious Retirement Fund collection last week. \$875.00 was contributed.

Thank You!!

Many thanks to Jack and Jan Kustron for orchestrating our latest edition of our newsletter – “Connections.” Jack is our Managing Editor and Photographer while Jan performs the Layout and Design. You should receive your personal copy of “Connections” during this week.

Christmas Flower Donations

Donations toward the altar flowers for the Christmas season in the memory of deceased family members or friends can be put in upcoming Sunday collections with the person’s name you wish to remember. A donation of \$10.00 is suggested. Please utilize the special envelopes available for this purpose.

Divorce Workshop

The next eight-week workshop begins Tuesday evenings, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., on January 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26 and ends March 4, 2008, at the Catholic Center, 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus. The fee is \$ 40.00 and scholarships are available. For additional information, call the Marriage and Family Life Office at 614-241-2560 or go to the web site at www.familylife.colsdioc.org and click on the **Hurting Families** link, to print a brochure and registration form.

Serra Club

The Downtown Serra Club of Columbus is a group of Catholic lay people that promotes and prays for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

The Downtown Serrans meet the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at St. Charles Cavello Center for lunch and a guest speaker. The club also sponsors Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament on the first Friday of each month at the Pontifical College Josephinum in the St. Rose of Lime Chapel from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Welcome New Parishioners

We are pleased to announce the following who have recently registered in the parish:

Kasey Brooks & Christina Howdyshell
(to be married in July 2008).

Timothy Roberts
(to be married in December 2008).

The Word

John the Baptist is an impressive figure in the Liturgy of Advent. For the Jewish people of his time, the Baptist was extremely important. They recognized him as a prophet. There had been no prophet in their midst for some four hundred years. Despite his popularity with the people, he suffered persecution at the hands of Herod Antipas. Today’s Gospel reminds us of his imprisonment (Matthew 11:2).

Jesus Himself identifies John as a prophet, but also as God’s messenger to prepare the way for the Messiah (11:9-10). He insists, “Among those born of women, there has been none greater than John the Baptist” (11:11). However, Jesus reminds His followers that the least in the kingdom of heaven has an advantage over the Baptist because of the greatness of Jesus and the kingdom He will establish by His death and resurrection (11:11).

From his prison, the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (11:3). Matthew is a skillful writer and uses that question to recall the miracles of chapters 8 and 9. Jesus’ response points out that He is “the one who is to come,” the Messiah. He makes it clear that He is not the political, military messiah expected by some, but a loving, merciful Messiah who would heal, who would also make that “the poor have the good news proclaimed to them (11:5).”

Jesus adds a beatitude, “Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me” (11:6). Matthew is preparing the reader for the many who will take offense in the chapters to follow. In chapter 12, for example, the Pharisees protest to Jesus about His disciples eating grain on the Sabbath; they object to his healing a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath; they even make the incredible charge, “This man [Jesus] drives out demons only by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons” (12:24). John is already in prison; Jesus, too, will be imprisoned. – **from “Living the Word”**

16 December 2007 † Third Sunday of Advent

❖ **Hymns are not announced** ❖

The first reading begins on page 31

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. – Dan DiSanto, organist

Gathering Hymn *The King Shall Come* (#468)

Responsorial Psalm *Lord, come and save us.*
Lord, come and save us. (#19, page 32)

Gospel Acclamation (#20, page 33)

Offertory Hymn *O Lord of Light* (# 472)

Communion Hymn *Emmanuel* (#460)

Closing Hymn *People, Look East* (#456)

Special Parish Dates

Mark your calendars for the following important dates for the parish:

- 1) Monday, December 24, 2007– Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 p.m. Incense will be used during the Mass. Parking is available during the Christmas Eve Mass at the PERS garage, just north of the Rectory and prayer garden.
- 2) Tuesday, December 25, 2007 – Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 a.m. Incense will not be used during this Mass.
- 3) Sunday, December 30, 2007 – Holy Family Sunday – Open House (Rectory) after each Mass.
- 4) Parish Mission – Sunday, April 20, 2008 through Tuesday, April 22, 2008.

Choir Practice at Holy Cross

Holy Cross Church Choir will be singing for Christmas. ---Rehearsals will be on Sundays following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. **New members are always welcome.** --Dan DiSanto will again be leading our choir this season.

Attention, Prayerful Single Men

Are you called to be a monk, brother or priest? Find out by attending an exciting free Live-in Experience. No cost. Food and room are free. Hear the vocations talks and experience the adventure of a life dedicated to the service of God. Locations and dates are:

1. Gethsemani Abbey in Trappist, KY. – January 3-10.
2. Conventual Franciscans of St. Anthony in Baltimore, MD. – January 10-13 and February 7-10.
3. Dominican Fathers and Brothers in Washington, D.C. – February 8-10. Call 800-221-1807 for more dates and information.

What’s Your Marriage Maintenance Schedule?

Learn about some tools for strengthening your relationship at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from the daily routine – and focus only on each other. Upcoming weekends are February 22-24 and April 18-20. For more information, call Paul and Marilou Clouse at 740-746-9003.

Looking for a Tax Write-Off?

Consider a donation to Bishop Hartley’s Evening of Excellence Silent Auction. This year’s dinner and auction will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008. To request an invitation, to make a donation, or if you have further questions, please call the Bishop Hartley Development Office at 237-5421, ext. 229.

BIRTHRIGHT OF COLUMBUS, a pregnancy support service, needs women volunteers for their two offices at 35 E. Gay Street and 4768 N. High Street. There is a short training period for a once a week commitment. Call E. Gay Street at 221-0844 or High Street 263-2514 for more information. No experience is needed.