

PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN HOME!

Sunday, December 20 ♦ Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Deceased Members of
Cramer & Kessler Families
(Agnes Cramer)

11:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Cross
Mi 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday, December 21 ♦ No Mass

Tuesday, December 22 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Albina Cykowski (Irene Lew)
1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday, December 23 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Msgr. Lawrence Corcoran
(Eugene Baumert)

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Thursday, December 24 ♦ Vigil of Christmas

4:00 p.m. Martha Walsh (Mary & Charlie Rush)
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Friday, December 25 ♦

Nativity of the Lord/Christmas

10:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Cross
Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday, December 26 ♦ St. Stephen

11:30 a.m. Patty Groom (Sr. Sally Groom)
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Sunday, December 27 ♦

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

9:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Cross
11:00 a.m. Pardi & Shough Families
(Sr. Pat Pieper, SND)

Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Col 3:12-21 or
3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

+ Please remember in your prayers our homebound parishioners and those who are ill: Mary Cordesco, Sara Fingerlin, Marianne Garrison, Dorothy Gaus, Sally Groom, Mary Kay Keefer, Mary Knapp, Ellen McMillen, Mary McNellis, Cathy Miller, Rita Neff, Jim Scanlon, Mary Scholl, Marilyn Scott, Margaret Trainor, Helen Violet, Elizabeth Wanamaker.

FLU!!!

Due to the national H1N1 emergency, we have temporarily discontinued the optional handshake sign of peace and Communion from the cup during both Sunday and Weekday Masses. We will continue this precautionary measure until the virus season is over.

Please pray for the sick and their caregivers.

THANKS!	
December 13, 2009 Offerings	
Designated Collections (Funds forwarded directly to the Diocese) Religious Retirement = \$1,667.10	Offering..... \$2,706.17 Votives..... 100.65 Eucharistic Vigil..... 0.00 Repair..... 290.00 Less 5% Tax..... (154.84)
Mass Attendance 9:00 a.m. = 85 11:00 a.m. = 100	Net to Parish..... \$2,941.98

Merry Christmas!!

Special Christmas Blessings to our Holy Cross Family, Guests and Visitors
from

Fr. Jerry, Sr. Pat & Mike

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.

Religious Retirement Collection Results

– from Sr. Pat

I would like to thank you for generous contributions of \$1,667.10 to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Our Congregation is one of the many that receives help from this collection and we are deeply appreciative.

Special Service for Homeless

The Annual Interfaith Memorial Service to celebrate the homeless and formerly homeless individuals who died in 2009 will be held at:

Trinity Episcopal Church

125 E. Broad Street

Monday, December 21, at 5:30 p.m.

If you would like to join Ann Seren and Sr. Pat, please let us know and come to the Rectory at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Music Preparation

Choir practice concludes today following the 11:00 a.m. Mass in preparation for Christmas. Please contact Kelly Doman, Choir Director, if you would like to participate or if you have any other questions (keladom@insight.rr.com or 920-4443).

WELCOME

If you are not yet registered in our parish, please drop this form in the collection basket:

Yes, I would like to register in Holy Cross Parish

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

THE WORD

Many people have referred to their small town of birth as a “nickel-and-dime” town which doesn’t sound like a compliment. It appears this was similar to Micah’s words about Bethlehem as “too small to be among the clans of Judah” (5:1). Another description would be a “backwater.” Hardly a place deserving of great expectations. Yet, backwater Bethlehem, city of David the shepherd boy, was to be the birthplace of the Messiah – not Jerusalem, center of government and religion, city of David the warrior king.

God’s strange choices extend beyond geographical sites to the people on whom God sets eyes. A young betrothed girl up in the north, a barren woman down in the south – these were chosen to play pivotal roles in the story of salvation. The once-barren Elizabeth, soon to bring forth the greatest of all prophets, now proclaims God’s most marvelous work and the little one through whom God is working: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Luke 1:42).

Elizabeth cues us to join in the response of the baby in her womb: to allow our hearts and spirits to leap for joy. Again and again, God works through those who are open to the Spirit. Blessed are they who place their trust in the Lord who continues to come to give us new life.

– from “Living the Word”

† December 20, 2009 †	
Fourth Sunday of Advent	
❖ Hymns are <u>not</u> announced ❖	
The first reading begins on page 38.	
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. – Kelly Doman, organist	
“Missa Emmanuel”	
Gathering Hymn	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> (#462)
Responsorial Psalm	<i>Lord, make us turn to You; let us see Your face and we shall be saved.</i> (Misselette p. 39, #21)
Gospel Acclamation	<i>Advent Christmas</i> <i>Acclamation</i>
Offertory Hymn	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i> (#647)
Communion Hymn	<i>Hail Mary, Gentle Woman</i> (#966)
Closing Hymn	<i>O Come, Divine Messiah</i> (#463)

Special Parish Dates

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

- 1) **Thursday, December 24, 2009 – Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 p.m. Incense will be used during the Mass.**
- 2) **Friday, December 25, 2009 – Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 a.m. Incense will not be used during this Mass.**
- 3) **Sunday, December 27, 2009 – Feast of the Holy Family – Rectory Open House after both Masses.**
- 4) **Friday, January 1, 2010 – Mary, Mother of God – Holyday of Obligation, Mass will be at 10:00 a.m.**

Parking for Christmas Eve

Extra parking is available during Christmas Eve Mass at PERS Garage, just north of the Rectory. We have made arrangements for you to enter from the 5th Street entrance for your convenience.

Diocesan Charities Collection

A second collection will be taken for the Diocesan Charities during the Christmas Masses.

OPEN HOUSE – Rectory

You are invited to our annual parish holiday at the Rectory next Sunday, December 27th, after each Mass. Come celebrate the “Holy Family” we are as parish.

Feast of the Holy Family

Appropriately, the Church places the **Feast of the Holy Family** on the weekend following Christmas. Let us pray for our families:

Father, help us to live as the Holy Family, united in respect and love. Teach us the sanctity of human love, show us the value of family life and help us to live in peace. We are united with Jesus, Mary and Joseph because in Your great love for us You sent Your Son to live in this world and to share our human experience. Help us to love each other as You love us and to be more aware of those families in the world who struggle with poverty, war and disease. Bring us all to the joy and peace of Your eternal home. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For those Who Grieve

Grieving During the Holidays, a timely brochure from the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office, is available online at www.FamilyLife.colstdioc.org by clicking on the “Hurting Families” link. It is also available by calling 614-241-2560 or e-mailing FLOMAILBOX@colstdioc.org.