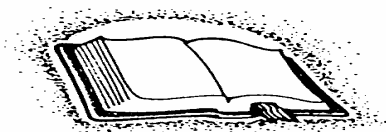


Scripture Readings

Third Sunday of Advent

Of Personal Concern . . .



Mon.: Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a
12/14 Ps. 25:4-9
Matthew 21:23-27

Tue.: Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13
12/15 Ps. 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23
Matthew 21:28-32

Wed.: Isaiah 45:6c-8,18,21c-25
12/16 Ps. 85:9-14
Luke 7:18b-23

Thu.: Genesis 49:2,8-10
12/17 Ps. 72:1-4,7-8,17
Matthew 1:1-17

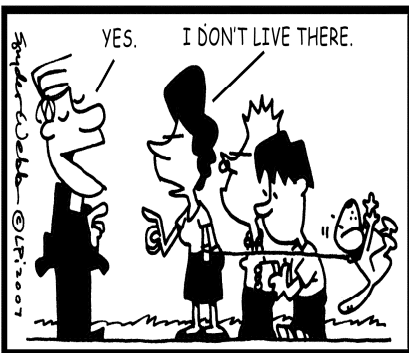
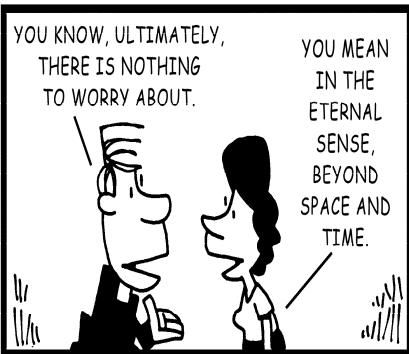
Fri.: Jeremiah 23:5-8
12/18 Ps. 72:1-2,12-13,18-19
Matthew 1:18-25

Sat.: Judges 13:2-7,24-25a
12/19 Ps. 71:3-6,16-17
Luke 1:5-25

Sun.: Micah 5:1-4a
12/20 Ps. 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Insights from Fr. Flood

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A Family Perspective

When the crowds in today's gospel asked, "What shall we do?" the Baptist was very clear: SHARE. Resist giving token obligatory Christmas gifts. Instead give NECESSITIES to the poor. If those who have nothing or very little are not on your Christmas list, you missed the point of Christmas.

In Sympathy

Our loving prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to the family of **Marilyn Snyder** who was called to her eternal rest last week. Please pray for her and all our departed friends and relatives.

Baptisms

We welcome the following children to our parish family: **Matthew James** - son of Michael Ploeckelmann & Elizabeth Dekam, **Leeah Cynthia** - daughter of Eric Hinojosa, **Lucas Patrick** - son of Krista Grosswiler and **Annabelle Marie** - daughter of Jonathan & Diane Smith. May God bless them and their families!

New Members

We welcome the following new members to our parish family: **Kenneth & Joan Faber, Stacy Bartzen** and her children **Dalton & Logan, Bonnie Carruthers, Victoria Lawrence, Amy McDowell, Michael Martin, John & Karen Rogers** and **Michelle Corrick**. We are happy to have you join us on our journey of faith!

2009 Contribution Statements

Contributions for the tax year 2009 will be accepted up to and including December 31, 2009. Envelopes postmarked or received after January 1, 2010 will be credited for 2010. Hard copy statements are mailed upon request only. If you received a statement last year, you will automatically receive one this year. If you would like to begin receiving annual statements, please let us know by calling 419-625-7465 or email office@stmarysandusky.org.

Ministry Schedules: Any changes or requests for the next three months (January, February & March) are due in the parish office as soon as possible. All requests must be in writing. You may leave a note at the parish office or email at ministry@stmarysandusky.org. Thanks for your cooperation!

Special thanks to our bulletin sponsor of the week - **Advanced Health**



Stewardship Way of Life

Week of 12/0609

Envelopes 551
Weekly - \$16,471.45
Monthly - \$ 11161.00
Immaculate Conception - \$310.00
Total Collection - \$27942.45

Team 3 to count on 12/21

Please do not tape or staple your envelopes

RUN SO AS TO WIN! (1 Cor 9:25)*No to Gloom, Yes to Joy*

A gloomy soul is at the mercy of many temptations. How many sins have been committed in the shadow of gloominess! In my own experience this is so true.

When our soul is happy it spreads happiness and encouragement to others just as a piping hot cup of delicious soup warms the entire body on a cold December day. When the soul is downcast it spreads misery to others and harms them. Such gloominess and misery arise from selfishness, from focusing only on oneself, from laziness and indifference, and from carelessness toward our relationship with Christ and His Church.

As we are unable to forget ourselves we are unable to know and serve Christ. So, too, are we unable to help those who need our help. True and lasting happiness, fulfillment, and meaning is found in Christ. Joy is not generated by our efforts, but rather received as His gift. Anyone excessively self-centered will find it very difficult if not impossible to discover the joy they long to know.

As we live more generously and gratefully we grow in joy. And certainly more than any words however eloquent, *joy draws people to God*.

St. Paul's instruction to the earliest Christians are spoken to us as well: "Bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2). We can often make life more pleasant for other people in little ways which have no apparent importance in themselves, but which show that we consider others, appreciate them, and care for them: a smile, a friendly remark, a word of praise, a thoughtful note, not making a great fuss over unimportant things that would be better overlooked and forgotten. In these ways we can help to make life easier for the people around us.

An important part of our Christian mission is to bring happiness to a world which is laden with sadness because it is drifting away from God.

Let us ready ourselves for Christmas by doing all we can in small ways to bring happiness and peace to those around us. People need to be convinced that Christ really has been born in Bethlehem. Nothing is more convincing that the happiness of the Christian all-the-while real struggles and challenges continue. Our Lady knew such struggles and challenges as she made the arduous trek to Bethlehem which ended with no place made by others for the birth of her Son.

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With my message of self-giving in mind, I am asking for help with **Sandusky Life Teen (SLT)**. Specifically, SLT is in need of a couple new **CORE MEMBERS** for next semester. This spirited and fun-filled group of adults plans and leads the Life Nights that take place after the SLT Mass (Sundays 5:00 p.m. at Holy Angels Church). This ministry is making amazing differences in the lives of our teens, compelling them to discard the world's gloomy message and seek the happiness offered to them by Christ. In addition, SLT needs a couple new people to help provide the meals for the teens once-a-month as part of a **HOSPITALITY TEAM**. Kindly contact our SLT Executive Director Brittany Taylor. Thanks for your willingness to lead teens closer to Christ!

**Mass Intentions****Sun., December 13**

7:30 a.m. Chester & Kathryn Wade
Elizabeth Ferber
Ashley & Frances Galloway
& Family

9:30 a.m. Robert Grohs
Ray Bush
Joseph Arnold

11:30 a.m. Eileen Schmidt
Audrey Windau
Gerald Clay

5:00 p.m. For The Parish

Mon., December 14 - John of the**Cross**

8:15 a.m. Dorothy Blackwood Miller
Marcia Blackwood Moulas
John Scherer

Tues., December 15

8:15 a.m. Albert Kromer
Julie Hartleib

Wed., December 16

8:15 a.m. Charles & Dorothea Herzog
Doug Sartor
Special Intention

Thurs., December 17

8:15 a.m. George Harkness
Teresa McMonigal
Russ Meisler

Fri., December 18

8:15 a.m. Kay Ramsdell
Gerry Voltz
Anne Stimmel

Sat., December 19

8:15 a.m. Marianne Barry Family
Ray Ruffing
Elaine Fischer
4:00 p.m. George Hritsko
Christ & Josephine Wobser
& Family
Norm Koelsch

Sun., December 20

7:30 a.m. Paul Manner
John & Louise Stamm
Helen Verock
9:30 a.m. Robert & Teresa Baum
Joanne Dye
Linda Schippel Nixon
11:30 a.m. John & Karolina Novotny
Chuck & Ruth Barker
James Biehl
5:00 p.m. For the Parish

*Confessions 1/2 hour before
every Mass*

Dec. 14 Grades K-6 Christmas Program; High School Gym,
1:00 & 7:00 p.m

Dec. 16 - Reconciliation Grades 7-12, Sts Peter & Paul
Church

Dec. 17 - 8:15 a.m. Mass, Gr. 1-6, St. Mary's Church

Reflections for the Third Week of Advent



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Rejoice! Here is your God! As the feast of Christmas draws closer, we are reminded that the Lord is with us even now. Jesus came to give sight to the blind and life to the dead. Christ's reign is among us through our deeds of love and generosity. Let us not grow weary, but steady our hearts and rejoice, for the Lord is close at hand.

The third candle: The candle of Joy

The third candle indicates that the only lasting Joy to be found in life on earth is through Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last.

Suggested Scripture and Prayer for the lighting of the candle of Joy

Scripture: "Rejoice in the lord always! I say it again rejoice! Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord is near." Philippians 4:4-5

Prayer: Jesus, you are the light of the world. May your light shine brightly so we can see you everywhere. Help us to spread your light and joy by giving freely and happily to all we meet.

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Other Items of Interest

Do you have a three year old who would benefit from a caring, educational, enriching preschool or day-care? The Early Childhood Center at Holy Angels Campus will be enrolling students beginning in January. Call today at 419-626-3075 for more information. Also, we do have a few openings for four and five year olds.



Please pray for the safety and protection of our policemen and women, area firefighters and all our parishioners serving in the military.

Christmas Memorials: Anyone wishing to remember their loved ones with a Christmas Memorial should place their donation and information in an envelope marked "Christmas Memorial" and place in the collection basket or mail to the parish office **before Dec. 16**. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Thank you.



Dec. 21 - Tri-Parish Reconciliation 7 p.m. St. Mary's



The Giving Tree is in the Commons with the names and addresses of our **parish seniors over 85 and parish homebound**. Please take a name of one or more and either send them a Christmas card, stop by to visit, send a fruit basket or flowers.

SMCC Hall of Fame Tickets on Sale: Tickets are on sale for the 10th Annual SMCC Athletic & Achievement Hall of Fame banquet in January. The Class of 2009 will be honored at the 2 p.m. ceremony on Jan. 17 at the Sandusky Yacht Club. Tickets, \$25, can be obtained by calling Dave Mehling 419-625-4768 or Gary Erney 419-626-5389. The inductees are Julie Cairelli, Glenn Fairfield, Bob Hart, Ed Naufel, Jared Opfer, Kevin Roth, Ron Weyer and the 1959 golf team of Ron Loeffler, Bob Orshoski, Arnold Schuessler and Paul Windisch.

Parish Owned Property for Rent

Efficiency apartment, second floor, completely remodeled. Available immediately. \$450 per month including all utilities. 412 Fulton Street.

One bedroom apartment, third floor, clean and updated. Available immediately. \$395 per month including all utilities. 412 Fulton Street.

Call Mark at 419-656-1456 for information.

Help Needed: We are in desperate need for Church cleaners on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings. Please call the Parish Office in you can help out.

Attention Please: All news for the December 27 bulletin, must be in the Parish Office by Thursday, December 17 at 5 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation!

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

SUN., Dec. 13	Third Sunday of Advent		
	9:30 am	Childrens Liturgy of the Word (Grades K-2)	Parish Commons
	9:30 am	Good Shepherd Program (program FULL)	(Atrium) Parish Center
	10:30 am	Parish School of Religion 7th Grade	Lower Room
	10:45 am	Childrens Choir Practice	Choir Room
	11:30 am	Childrens Liturgy of the Word	Parish Commons
	11:30 am	Good Shepherd Program (program FULL)	(Atrium) Parish Center
	5:00 pm	Sandusky Life Teen Mass	Holy Angels Church
	6:00 pm	Teen Dinner and Life Night	Holy Angels Church
	6:00 pm	Parish School of Religion 8th Grade	Holy Angels School
MON., Dec. 14	1:00 pm	Church Cleaners Team #1	Church
	5:00 pm	Bulletin Deadline	Office
TUE., Dec 15	6:00 pm	Holy Hour	Church
	7:00 pm	Parish Outreach	Upper Room
	7:00 pm	RCIA	St Peter and Paul's Church
	7:00 pm	Women's Catholic Bible Study	Lower Room
WED., Dec. 16	4:00 pm	Community Supper Team 4	First Congregational Church
	5:45 pm	Parish School of Religion (PSR)	Sandusky Central Catholic School
	5:45 pm	Fit-N-Faith	SMCC Cafeteria
	7:00 pm	Contemporary Choir Practice	Church
THU., Dec. 17	2:00 pm	Sandusky Life Teen Holy Hour	Blessed Sacrament Chapel
	5:00 pm	Dec. 27 Bulletin Deadline	Office
	7:00 pm	Men's Basketball	Catholic Grade School Gym (Multipurpose Room)
	7:30 pm	Parish Choir	Church
FRI., Dec. 18			
SAT., Dec. 19	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study	Lower Room

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR Dec. 19 & Dec. 20

	4:00 PM	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM	5:00 PM
Servers	D. Ritzenthaler	S. Lochotzki	A. Vargas	C. Hurlburt	A. Colavincenzo
	M. Ritzenthaler	K. Market	B. Vargas	A. Hurlburt	N. Colavincenzo
	A. Walsh		Need Sub		
Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Deacon J. Claar	Deacon J. Claar	Deacon J. Claar	Deacon B. Burch	Deacon B. Burch
	Eileen May	T. Sloma	D. Claar	M. Chimera	L. Kaman
	D. Moncher	T. Sloma	R. Clifford	D. Faber	C. Napper
	G. Smith	P. Stanley	M. Fitzthum	F. Fosco	N. Riesterer
	J. Soule	R. Stanley	M. Gallagher	C. Schnurr	L. Rudolph
	R. Villalon	P. Young	C. Henry	A. Sennish	
	T. Walsh	M. Young	M. Keller	E. Sennish	
			J. Kramer		
			Need Sub		
Lector	K. Salkind	C. Wellington	A. Good	S. Wagner	J. Matthews
Mass Coordinator	M. Deubel	J. Claar	A. Geason	J. Kustec	L. Bedee
		L. Ulery			

Holy Day Masses: Sign up sheets for all Ministers for all Holy Days are in the Servers Sacristy. Please look at the schedules and see where you can help out. Thank you.

St. Mary's Parish Outreach Program: helps parishioners who find themselves in need of some financial assistance during difficult times. If this is you or a family member, contact us at 419-625-7465 or bburch@stmarysandusky.org



St. Mary's Catholic Church
429 Central Avenue, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-7465—Phone
(419) 621 - 2834—Fax
office@stmarysandusky.org
www.stmarysandusky.org

Office Hours:
Monday 8:00 am—5:00 pm
Tuesday through Thursday 8:00 am—8:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am—5:00 pm
Closed 12:30 pm—1:30 pm for lunch

PRIESTS **Ext.**
 Fr. Dave Nuss - Pastor 14
 dnuss@stmarysandusky.org
 Fr. Jason Kahle - Assoc. Pastor 20
 jkahle@stmarysandusky.org

DEACONS
 Deacon Jeff Claar 11
 jclaar@stmarysandusky.org
 Deacon Bill Burch 15
 bburch@stmarysandusky.org

ADMINISTRATION
 Deacon Jeff Claar - Bus. Mgr.
 11
 jclaar@stmarysandusky.org

Mary Riesterer - Parish Sec.
 10
 office@stmarysandusky.org

Ruth Guendelsberger - Bookkeeper 30
 ruth@stmarysandusky.org

BUILDING AND GROUNDS
 Mark Fitzthum 16
 mark@stmarysandusky.org

CHRISTIAN FORMATION
 Deb Geason - Catechetical Leader
 24
 dgeason@stmarysandusky.org

Marty Klupp - RCIA Coordinator

EVENT COORDINATOR
 Mickey Linden - Event Coordinator
 mlinden@stmarysandusky.org

MUSIC MINISTRY
 Tim Claubaugh - Organist/Director 18
 music@stmarysandusky.org
 Heather Gerber - Contemporary Choir
 hgerber@stmarysandusky.org

Mike Schmenk - Children's Choir
 music@stmarysandusky.org

SANDUSKY LIFE TEEN
 Brittany Taylor - Executive Director 26
 btaylor@sanduskylifeteen.org

FUNERAL COORDINATOR
 Monica Deubel - 419-625-7465

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

PRAYER NETWORK
 Pauline or Stephanie (419)626-4373

COMMUNION TO HOME BOUND
 Paul and Kathy Wiesler - Coordinator
 419-625-7465

PARISH OUTREACH
 Deacon Bill Burch 15
 bburch@stmarysandusky.org

Teresa Sloma 12
 tsloma@stmarysandusky.org

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
 Heather Kromer - Office Manager
 419-625-2673
 catholiccemeteries@bex.net

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Joyce Dillinger—Co-Chair
 Jim McClain—Co-Chair
 David Darr
 Linda Hohler
 Denise Klepper
 Judy Matthews
 Pam Riggs
 Anne Smith
 Paul Stanley
 Helen Sturbaum
 Julie Youskievicz

FINANCE COUNCIL

Don Henry—Chair
 Mark Clifford
 Juanita Fenton
 Tom Sloma
 Tim Walsh
 Ken Domanski
 Kevin Ralofsky
 Tim Collins
 Gina Vincent
 Rose Nath

St. Mary's Parish

Mission Statement

**Inspiring believers to imitate
 Jesus Christ,
 receive the Holy Sacraments,
 and live in the heart of the
 Catholic Faith.**

**SANDUSKY CENTRAL
 CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Administration

Dr. Judy Monaghan - Supt.
 Fr. Jason Kahle - Chaplain
 Janet Runner - Exec. Asst. Supt.
 410 West Jefferson Street
 Sandusky, OH 44870
 (419) 627-9718 - Phone
 (419) 621-2252 - Fax
 www.sanduskycentralcatholic.org

Early Childhood Center

Sally Dwight - Director
 Carol Koelsch - Admin Asst. Dir.
 1603 West Jefferson St.
 Sandusky, OH 44870
 (419) 626-3075 Phone

Elementary

Ann Whitfield - Principal
 Jodi Parish - Admin Asst. Prin.
 530 Decatur Street
 Sandusky, OH 44870
 (419) 626-1648 Phone

High School

Mike Savona - Principal
 Lois Walsh - Admin Asst. Prin.
 410 West Jefferson Street
 Sandusky, OH 44870
 (419) 626-1892 Phone

SCCS Foundation

Michele Gallagher, President
 (419) 627-0370

Board of Directors

Jeanne Lawrence, President
 Charlie Murray, Vice President
 Tim Walsh, Secretary
 Michael Claar
 Eric Dudenhoefer
 Fr. Chris Kardzis
 Holly Kromer
 Steve May
 Fr. Marty Nassr
 Fr. Dave Nuss
 Julie Roth

Community News

Dec. 13 - "A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols", 7 p.m. Sorrowful Mother Shrine. Open to the public and free. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings, interspersed with singing of Christmas carols and hymns.

The Vermilion Knights of Columbus invite you to join them on a Fall Cruise to New England & Canada. Sail on Sept. 18, 2010 on the Holland America Maasdam. Call Rob Skladan of Choose to Cruise Now at 440-967-5833 for details and pricing. A refundable deposit of \$350 per person holds your cabin.

St. Mary's Movie Night Double Feature

***6:00 P.M. The Little Drummer Boy (30 min) *6:45 PM The Nativity Story (1 hr 45 min)**
St. Mary's Commons Wednesday Dec. 30th

FREE ADMISSION *FREE POPCORN *FREE DRINKS

Bring your sleeping bag and pillows. Spend time with your family and fellow parish families this holiday season!