

St. Mary's Church of Iowa City

December 16, 2007

SCRIPTURE		MASSES		CALENDAR
Sunday December 16	Is 35:1-6a, 10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11	8:00 9:30 11:00	+Cleone Fay +Frank Donchez Special Intention (anonymous) +Clementine Strabala +Holy Souls in Purgatory Parishioners The Third Sunday of Advent	Pantry Sunday 2 PM Communal Penance (St. Patrick's) 5 PM Vespers 5:45PM Children's Pageant rehearsal (church) 5:45PM Strings rehearsal (parish hall)
Monday December 17	Gn 49:2,8-10 Mt 1:1-17	12:10	Special Intention (nephew) +Carol McCabe +Doris Rank +Virginia Lawrence Advent Weekday	7 PM Communal Penance (St. Thomas More) 7:30 PM Widowed/Separated/Divorced
Tuesday December 18	Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25	12:10	+Mary Rohret +Cecile Chartier +David Talbott Advent Weekday	7 PM Communal Penance (St. Wenceslaus)
Wednesday December 19	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25	12:10	Special Intention +Betty and Joe Chudacek +Wayne Chadima +Ken Kasper Advent Weekday	5 PM Christmas Altar Server Practice 5:30 PM Choir practice 6-6:40 PM Children's Choir practice
Thursday December 20	Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38	12:10	Special Intention Dorothy & Florence Black, Sr. +Dick Zahradnek +Brendan Fisher Advent Weekday	5-6 PM Youth Casserole Making 7 PM Peace and Justice Commission
Friday December 21	Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45	12:10	+Bernice Kron +Pat McCarney +Dorothy McCarty +Helen Black Advent Weekday	11:30 AM Free Lunch at the Wesley Center 12:05 PM Angelus for Life 12:50 PM Prayer at Emma Goldman Clinic 5:00 PM Legion of Mary
Saturday December 22	Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24	5:10	Parishioners Advent Weekday	8 AM Cookie Baking for the Homebound (hall) 10 AM Communal Penance (St. Mary's)
Sunday December 23	Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24	8:00 9:30 11:00	+Caroline Simon +John O'Neill +Wayne Kempf +Lyle Donohoe +Mary Gannon +Jake and Phyllis Roskup The Fourth Sunday of Advent	5 PM Advent Vespers 5:45PM Children's Pageant rehearsal (church) 5:45PM Strings rehearsal (parish hall)

FAITH FOCUS QUESTION

What am I doing to get ready to celebrate Christmas?

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of Ralph Murray (husband of Agnes), Donald Hoffey (brother of Paul) and Jean Reddin (sister of Margaret Felling). *May they be welcomed into everlasting life!*

Advent Evening Vespers

One of the great ways to enter into the season of Advent is to join with other members of our parish community for Advent Vespers. In our hectic, busy world, we need time for silence, reflection, and prayer. Advent Vespers (Evening Prayer) provides us the opportunity to do just that. Please join us this evening at 5 PM in the church as we lift up our hearts in preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Stewardship Gifts of Talent

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make the Homeless Overflow Project at St. Mary's possible!

St. Mary's Scrip News

Stop by the scrip table for your last minute shopping. We have gift cards available from Kohl's, JC Penney, Wal-Mart, Kmart, Sears, and hundreds of other stores, good at local and national locations. Check out our list of 33 vendors that have increased their rebate for the Christmas season. Today is the last day to place an order if you would like them before Christmas!

1,000 Pairs of Socks

The Peace and Justice Commission challenges you and your family to purchase one pair of socks for every member of your family to donate to the Tutweiler Medical Clinic in Mississippi. We are hoping to collect over 1,000 pairs of socks! Donation baskets will be placed in the main vestibule of the church for your donations on each of the Sundays of Advent.

FREE LUNCH

St. Mary's will be serving Free Lunch on Friday, December 21st, at the Wesley Center. Please use the sign-up sheet in the vestibule to contribute casseroles, salads, and desserts. Food may be brought to the parish hall on Thursday evening between 7-8:30 PM. Volunteers are also needed to help serve the lunch.

Habitat for Humanity Pop Can Collection

A can collection box for Habitat for Humanity is located in the parish hall. You are encouraged to rinse and drop off any pop cans you may have. The five cent refund will help Habitat build new homes in our area.

Cookie Baking for the Homebound!

Saturday, December 22nd, 8 AM to noon

All youth are invited to bring cookie cutters as well as decorations to the parish hall for the cookies! Sr. High Youth as well as adults: We are in need of drivers to deliver our cookies to our homebound parishioners. If you are able to help, please let Patti know beforehand at 337-4314 and be at St. Mary's parish hall around 11 AM on December 22nd.

People attending the 5:10 PM Christmas Eve Mass and the 11 PM Christmas Mass During the Night sometimes arrive early and reserve pews for family members and friends. Other people, who come later, are then told that they cannot sit in the reserved pews. Obviously, this creates some tension! ☺ The Liturgy Commission has decided that seats may be reserved until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass. At 4:40 PM and 10:30 PM an announcement will be made that open seating is now available. What this means is: If you are planning to reserve a seat for someone else, they must arrive 30 minutes before Mass begins. Hopefully, this will alleviate any seating problems here at St. Mary's.

INCENSE NOTICE

Incense will be used at the following Masses: Christmas Mass in the Night (11 PM), Christmas morning (8:30 AM and 10 AM), and the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

Year End Gifts to St. Mary's Parish

As the year 2007 comes to an end, so does the opportunity to take advantage of charitable deductions for the calendar year. Donating cash, stocks or other securities to St. Mary's Parish may help reduce your capital gains tax or provide a tax deduction. All charitable gifts for 2007 should be received by December 31st, 2007. According to the IRS, any gifts received on January 1st, 2008 or later cannot be "back dated" to count for 2007. All gifts must be recorded in the calendar year received. Thank you!

It's a Ski Trip!

St. Mary's annual ski trip to Sundown Ski Resort, for youth in grades 6-12, will be on Sunday, January 20th.

\$45 skis/pass/lift

\$30 pass/lift only

\$50 snowboard/pass/lift

Permission slips are in the December SMART News and located on the back porch of the parish office. Please return them to the parish office by **FRIDAY, JANUARY 11th, 2007!**

REGINA HAPPENINGS

A 65% Iowa Income Tax Credit is available by making a donation to the Student Tuition Organization (STO) of Southeast Iowa. Show your support of choice in education by designating Regina on the donation form. For more information, contact Steve Rolling, Chair of the STO of Southeast Iowa (563-244-1040), Gary Schmit (354-1104), or Alan Opheim in the Regina Business Office (337-2580, ext. 102). The donation form and mailing information can be found at www.icregina.com under the Business Office section. Donations must be made by December 31st, 2007. This is a wonderful opportunity to actually reduce your state income tax!

HAPPENINGS ELSEWHERE

The Crisis Center Food Bank Needs Your Help!

Due to increased demands on Food Bank resources, it has been challenging to address the rising need for basic essentials like food and diapers. The Crisis Center has been helping residents of Johnson County over 37 years! It continues to respond immediately, effectively, and compassionately to those in need of assistance. We depend on the generosity of area individuals and businesses to continue its efforts in providing services to those who need it most. The Crisis Center is located at 1121 Gilbert Court in Iowa City. Donations can be taken from 8 AM-5 PM, Monday through Friday. For more information, please contact Dayna at 351-2726.

Young Adults Group

All young adults are invited to the Young Adult Potluck on Monday, December 17th, at 6:30 PM, at St. Thomas More. Please call Sr. Laura (338-0939) or Chrissy Clifton (339-0521) for more information.

The Knights of Malta

The Knights of Malta are looking for candidates. The order of St. John of Jerusalem is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilization. Knights and Dames are lay members, devoted to the exercise of Christian virtue and charity. What distinguishes the Knights of Malta is their commitment to reach spiritual perfection within the Church and expend their energies serving the poor and sick. They are looking to start a Des Moines cluster. For more information, go to www.wmom.org or call Tom Moreland at 515-991-3782.

ST. MARY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Kevin Mellen – Chairperson
 Marty Shafer – Chairperson Elect
 Karla Peiffer – Secretary

PASTORAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Jane Doucette – Family Life
 Ann Elsbecker – Peace & Justice
 Marty Shafer – Liturgy
 Randy Hefel – Christian Formation
 Kevin Mellen – Property Management
 Mary Loops – Fellowship & Communications
 Cathy Sharp - Evangelization & Stewardship
 Megan Myers – Youth

ST. MARY'S FINANCE COUNCIL

Anne Hargrave (Lay Director)
 Vince Maurer
 John Maxwell (Lay Director)
 Mike Pugh
 Bob Squires

EDUCATION**Regina Catholic Education Center:**

Ray Pechous – High School Principal, 338-5436
 Celeste Vincent – Elementary Principal, 337-5739
 Sr. Mary Frances Michalec, ND, - Religious Education
 Director, 351-7638
 Alan Opheim – Regina Business Office, 337-2580
 April Rouner – Executive Director of the Catholic Community
 Foundation, 354-5866

Regina Board of Education Representatives:

Rick Larew, Patrice Carroll, and Greg Williams

DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION & STEWARDSHIP

Sr. Laura Goedken, OP, 338-0939

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 9th, 2007

Envelopes	\$ 26,665.83
Offertory (loose cash)	\$ 685.00
Electronic Funds Transfer	\$ 4,729.83
Children's Envelopes	\$ 13.00
Total	\$ 32,093.66
Amount needed each week:	\$ 18,500.00
Amount received last week:	\$ 32,093.66
OVER budget:	\$ 13,593.66
Amount needed year to date:	\$444,000.00
Amount received to date:	\$449,179.66
OVER budget:	\$ 5,179.66

Stewardship of Treasure Goal: 5% GIVEN IN
 GRATITUDE

Thoughts on Stewardship

John the Baptist was sent by God to witness to the coming of the Lord. We, too, are sent to witness our belief that Christ has come by living faith-filled lives as disciples of the Lord.

Choose Life Prayer – We pray for those who work in the right to life movement in any capacity, that they may receive the gift of patience.

Vocation View – Be patient until the Lord comes. Be patient and listen; ask the Lord what he wants of you. (James 5:7-10)