

*Notes from  
Fr. Dean*



**It was a first for me.** In 28 years of priestly ministry, last weekend was the first one that I missed Sunday Masses due to stomach flu, which passed around the family! It was not something I wanted to

share with you. I am grateful to Fr. Joe Ring, from St. James, Riverton, who adjusted his schedule on quick call Saturday afternoon and to Fr. Bob Porter, retired priest, who was available for Sunday. Next Saturday, Fr. Porter will be here as I committed myself two years ago to doing a friend's wedding.

It was good to see a large turnout of St. Jude parishioners at the Rochester Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service held at South Fork Church of Christ. Also the gathering on Thanksgiving Day for Mass was great. Every Sunday (every Mass) is our prayer of Thanksgiving, the meaning of Eucharist.

At the recommendation of the Pastoral Council, I will be sending you a letter this week regarding the ACSA, the Annual Catholic Services Appeal and our assessment which is \$40,000 this year.

**HOLY DAY: FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY**

Monday, December 8 is the feast of our Diocesan and National Patron, the Blessed Mother under the title of her immaculate conception. Masses are scheduled for **6:45 am and 6:00 pm Monday.**

**Blessing of Expectant Parents;** at the 6:00 pm Mass, the parents who are expecting a child will be given a special blessing and preparation prayer kit.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES**

Our parish will be hosting a Penance Service on **Monday, December 15 at 6:30 pm.** Several other area priests will be here to assist with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. As one child told her parents, "Don't you want to clean your heart for Jesus at Christmas?" See a notice in the bulletin for other parish penance services, if you are unable to attend this one.

God bless you during this Advent Season.  
Fr. Dean



**Please pray for healing and comfort for:**

- Maude & John Kenworth** (Parishioners)
- Tom Rebbe** (Dave & Tess Riedle's brother-in-law)
- Mary Beth Vetter** (Teri Dambacher's sister)
- John Hermes** (Jan Catalano's brother)

(Note: Names will remain on the active prayer list for three weeks unless a request is made to extend it for an additional three weeks.)

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gene Steber, grandfather of **Brandee Toliver** and David J. Lazzeri, father of **Eileen Streb**. Mr. Steber and Mr. Lazzeri died this past week.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES**

Dec. 8	6:30p	Church of the Little Flower
Dec. 14	2:00p	St. Aloysius
Dec. 14	2:30p	St. Katherine Drexel Cathedral at Sacred Heart
	4:00 p	St. Francis Cabrini
Dec. 15	6:30p	St. Jude
Dec. 16	6:30p	St. Joseph, Chatham
Dec. 17	7:00p	Blessed Sacrament and Christ the King at Blessed Sacrament
Dec. 21	2:00p	St. John Vianney, Sherman
	4:00p	St. James, Riverton



**MINISTRY SIGN UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

*Ready or not – the holidays are upon us.* As in the past, we are asking our Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Servers and Hospitality Ministers to sign-up to serve at the Mass (or Masses) they will be attending during the holiday season. There are sign-up sheets on the table at the entrance to the church.

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve  
5:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day  
9:00 am

Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 pm

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am and 10:30 am

Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Eve  
5:00 pm

Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day  
9:00 am

## LITURGISTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – December 13-14

	<b>Saturday 5:30pm</b>	<b>Sunday 8:00am</b>	<b>Sunday 10:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday 6:00 pm</b>
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Settles/Scheufele/ Deacon Tom	Downey/DeGroot/ Deacon Tom	Williams/Clare Deacon Tom	Brown/Rayhill/ Deacon Tom
<b>Lector</b>	LoCascio/Kenworth	Walker/Smith	Jasinski/Kerley	Garcia/Palumbo
<b>Hospitality</b>	McDermott Family	Will Family	Sutker Family	C&M Houser/Walker
<b>Servers</b>	Settles/ D & M Western	Newman A & G Otten	Foster/Riedle Magro	C Brown/ R & B Doherty
<b>Mass Coordinator</b>	Carmel Settles	Beth & Rich Yong	Vicki Walker	Vicki Walker

**Church Dusters for the week of December 8:** Sue & Victoria Arnish & Carla Houser

**Art & Environment for next weekend:** Ed Bedore

**Children's Liturgy of the Word for next weekend:** Jeff Garland, Kim Garland & Christine Cornett

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Dec 06 Sat</b>	5:30 p	Rose Beeve †
<b>Dec 07 Sun</b>	8:00 a	Catholic War Veterans †
	10:30 a	Our Parish Family
<b>Dec 08 Mon</b>	6:45 a	Grover Smith †
	6:00 p	Bill Sinkus †
<b>Dec 09 Tue</b>	6:45 a	Tom & Marie Lawless †
<b>Dec 10 Wed</b>	8:00 a	Liv & Dec'd Mbrs of Parish†
<b>Dec 11 Thu</b>	6:45 a	Agnes Reilly †
<b>Dec 12 Fri</b>	8:00 a	All Souls †
<b>Dec 13 Sat</b>	5:30 p	John W. Blasko †
<b>Dec 14 Sun</b>	8:00 a	Our Parish Family
	10:30 a	Rose Decatoire †
	6:00 p	Fr. James Sullivan †

### HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

#### Sunday – December 7

<b>9:10 a</b>	PSR Classes
<b>6:30 p</b>	HS Electives

#### Monday – December 8 – Parish Offices Closed

<b>6:30 p</b>	Breadbakers: Brady, Breitung, Pigati, Urbanckas
<b>7:00 p</b>	Liturgy Commission Meeting
<b>7:00 p</b>	ChFormation Commission Meeting

#### Tuesday – December 9

<b>9:00 a</b>	Collection Counting Team 1 – (Rowden, Catalano, Hattes)
<b>6:00 p</b>	RCIA Potluck

#### Wednesday – December 10

<b>5:00 p</b>	Children's Choir Practice
<b>6:30 p</b>	PSR Classes
<b>6:30 p</b>	RCIA
<b>7:45 p</b>	Adult Choir Practice

#### STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

#### Sunday – December 14

<b>9:10 a</b>	PSR Classes
<b>6:00 p</b>	Confirmation Sacramental Prep Class

### OUR GIFT TO GOD Fiscal Year 7/1/08 – 6/30/09

	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Last Sunday</b>
Collection	\$117,053.55	\$ 5,511.35
Electronic Funds	\$ 21,360.00	\$ 1,787.00
Bldg. Dev. Fund	\$ 7,443.00	\$ 203.00
EFT – Dev. Fund	\$ 2,290.00	\$ 218.00
Poor Fund	\$ 767.01	\$ 97.16

### Children's Stewardship Offering to God

#### My good deed was . . .

Cleaned my room  
Helping with the Christmas Friends.

#### Stewardship Message

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the US bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: The grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live – the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

### Daily Readings

**Sun.** - Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14;  
Mk 1:1-8

**Mon.** - Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;  
Lk 1:26-38

**Tue.** - Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10-13; Mt 18:12-14

**Wed.** - Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

**Thur.** - Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13; Mt 11:11-15

**Fri.** - Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18-19; Lk 1:26-38

**Sat.** - Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
Mt 17:9-13

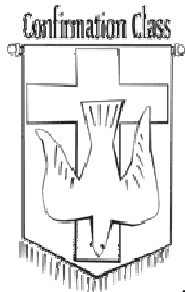
**Sun.** - Is 61:1-2, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54.;  
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## LOTTERY WINNERS\$ December 1-7

**Mon.** Wayne Hutchinson  
**Tue.** Paul Brown  
**Wed.** St. Martin dePorres (Brown)  
**Thu.** Kathy Park  
**Fri.** Beverly McCue  
**Sat.** Development Fund (Carlisle)  
**Sun. \$100** Francis Kincaid

### Please pick up your lottery checks in the Sacristy!

Arnish, Brinkman, Carel, Coe, Deimel, Duban, Duesterhaus-2, Egizio, Eicholz, Foster, Gartner, Henson, Kimberlin, King, T Londrigan, Presney, Reid, Zaffiri



## CONFIRMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Community Service Letters:** We would prefer that you have these done by December 14<sup>th</sup>, although you can turn them in by *January if you have a service project that is scheduled after Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>*. If you would rather come in to give your report in person instead of writing it out, contact Dan soon to schedule a time.

**For Sponsor/Parent:** For those coming with their candidate on December 14<sup>th</sup>, we now have a 1-page preparation sheet that we'd like you to read before class. This sheet is designed to help you better participate in the discussions so you feel better prepared. Both this sheet and the Unit 3 Adult Reflection can be found on the parish website as:

[www.rochesterstjude.com/christian\\_formation/sacraments\\_of\\_initiation.asp](http://www.rochesterstjude.com/christian_formation/sacraments_of_initiation.asp)

**Mass** begins promptly at **6:00 p.m.** so bring the family on December 14<sup>th</sup>!

### Advertiser of the Week

**KEB**

**Kerber, Eck & Braeckel**

CPA's and Management Consultants

**Jim Hagerman, CPA/PFS**

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

### December 6-7, 2008

"with the Lord a thousand years is like one day." Time passes so quickly in our marriage, also. One day our spouse will be gone. Have I worked to make our days together the best they can be? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in this area is January 25<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>. Early registration is highly recommended. To register or for more information call 888-889-9963 or go online to [www.aweekendofdiscovery.org](http://www.aweekendofdiscovery.org).

## RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

Today, the majority of religious are past age 60 and a significant number are past 80. In keeping with their vows and traditions, all religious who are able continue to minister and to pray. There are among our elderly religious, however, many who suffer the same pain and indignities associated with aging that you might see in your own families. Their institutes, in too many instances, are finding it increasingly difficult to meet the challenge of rapidly escalating health care costs.

I ask you then, to "be with" our elderly women and men religious as we conduct the appeal for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**, especially those who are frail and in need of skilled care. Support this appeal and, in doing so, hold our religious in your hearts and your prayers, journey with them in hope, and grow with them in love.

--Bishop George J. Lucas

## THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN IS A LIFE CALLED INTO SERVICE FOR OTHERS

Caregiver Interfaith Volunteer Service is an interfaith ministry that helps older adults remain independent in the home. Our congregation supports this ministry and is in need of more volunteers. Caregiver volunteers do not provide hands on care but rather supportive services such as:

- ❖ Drive neighbors to the doctor, pharmacy, grocery store, etc.
- ❖ Do grocery shopping for shut-ins
- ❖ Perform minor home repairs or seasonal yard work
- ❖ Make friendly visitor calls
- ❖ Provide limited respite care for caregivers (once a week up to 3 hours)

As a volunteer, you may choose assignments that fit into your personal schedule and you may decline any request for service that you cannot do. To register or obtain more information, contact **Nancy Kruse** who is our CIVS congregational coordinator, or you may contact CIVS at St. John's Hospital, 757-6621 (Kay Alberts)



Gather around the "Red Kettle" to ring the bell for Salvation Army this coming Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> anytime between 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at J.C. Penney on Dirksen Parkway. Stay for as long as you can and allow your presence to encourage shoppers to share their blessings with the needy

of our community.

Also, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade PSR Class will be ringing bells on Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at Penney's.





With the holiday season upon us, please don't forget: **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON, and not just for the CHRISTmas season.** GOD knew everything about you before you were born.... what you would look like, who your parents would be, as well as placing special people in your life whom you will come in contact with in your daily life! GOD placed love in your heart to spread the good works of the LORD and to help the less fortunate. GOD wants us to be more like him and help those people that he puts in our path during our life time. It might be something as simple as a smile or an encouraging word. It might be food or clothing for someone

who is hungry or naked.

**When God calls you home can you honesty say to yourself, "I have done everything that God has asked of me in my life."** GOD talks to us all the time, we don't always slow down enough to hear him!!

Jesus states in the Gospel of Matthew regarding the Final Judgment, "Whatever you do the least of my brothers and sister, you do to me." Take the opportunity to prepare a place for Jesus this Advent/Christmas Season by doing something for Jesus, reaching out to those in need.

**FAITH without ACTION is dead. James 2:17:** "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." **James 2:24:** "You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone." Here is a perfect opportunity to have **FAITH IN ACTION!!** If your child is being **Confirmed** or you or your family would like to help in preparing or serving a meal for the **Helping Hands Homeless Shelter** on **Monday, December 29th**, please contact **Jeannette Waters** at **529-7280**. **We will prepare the meal on Sunday, December 28th at the Parish Center.**



HELPING HANDS HOMELESS SHELTER

If anyone would like to **donate items for goody bags**, that would be appreciated too! There is a **Menu Wish List** posted on the Bulletin Board at Church and in the Parish Center by the entrance doors.

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact me. **Thanks in advance for making a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate.** Please remember to ACT on Faith as it comes into our lives. It will truly fill you with the Holy Spirit!! God Bless you all and have a safe and happy holiday!

Jeanette Waters, 529-7280

**SHG TO PRESENT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW**

The Encore, Premiere and mixed Choirs of Sacred Heart-Griffin will present their annual Christmas Show, **Glory to the Son of God**, on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Dominican Hall Auditorium. Tickets do not need to be purchased; however, a free-will offering will be accepted at the door.

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK will be held at St. John Vianney Activity Center in Sherman, IL**, on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon. Guests will be able to select their favorites from dozens of varieties of fancy Christmas cookies as well as candies, breads and coffee cakes. For those with limited shopping time, we offer prepackaged trays which are also great for gift giving. This Cookie Walk is one of the largest and most beautiful in the area. Everything is homemade by the ladies of the St. John Vianney Parish. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

**SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN Placement Test offered to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** on Saturday, Dec 13 from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. There is no pre-registration for this test. For more information call 787-1595.

**ROOMS NOW available at St. Joseph's Home**, both in sheltered care and in round-the-clock nursing care. For

information or a tour please call 529-5596 to make an appointment.



**Calling all Knights – Italian Beef Sandwiches, drinks and some tasty hor'dourves will be provided as we gather for an important meeting on Tuesday, December 16.** We will be organizing the upcoming Fish Frys. Bring your favorite "finger-food" to share.



The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World – he brought light and life to a dark world. On each of the four Sunday of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.