

*Notes from
Fr. Dean*



Dear Parishioner(s);

The third Sunday of Advent is referred to as **Gaudete Sunday**. We rejoice over halfway through the Advent Season in preparation for the feast of Christmas.

Advent is the English translation from Latin of the Greek work *parousia*, which is commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. We look for the Coming of Christ in Glory as we prepare to celebrate his first coming in time (feast of Christmas).

In the **Scriptures**, we again hear of John the Baptist's mission. Last week it was Mark's Gospel and today it is John's version. John the Baptist is the herald in the desert calling us to prepare the way of the Lord through the forgiveness of sin. We have that opportunity to celebrate the **Sacrament of Forgiveness (Penance: the Rite of Reconciliation)** in a Communal Penance Service Monday evening.

**St. Jude's
Advent Communal Penance Service
December 15 at 6:30 p.m.
Parish Center**

The Communal Penance Service consists of the community joining together in song, listening to the Gospel, reciting an act of contrition, and doing penance. Individually people will privately confess their sin(s) and receive absolution, as in reception of Holy Communion. **The entire service should last only an hour as additional priests (Frs. Janoski, Jallas, Meehling, Nolan, Ossola, Ring) will administer absolution.** The Communal Penance Service is not meant for consultation with the priest; that can be done in the Individual Rite of Reconciliation as is available on Saturday afternoons or by appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: If possible, please request this sacrament from your parish priest prior to any scheduled hospitalization. The hospital chaplain, Fr. Tony Pelli is unavailable for several weeks due to returning to India on account of his father's recent death. In emergencies, a priest will be called by the hospital pastoral care office.

Have a blessed week, rejoicing that the Lord is near.
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)

Lyndell Lindsay (grandfather of Ellen Schoedel, David Lacy and Liz Kondelis)

(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 Alice Sagvold, grandmother of Nancy Atkinson. Mrs. Sagvold passed away on Sunday, December 7th.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

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
Dec. 21	2:00p	St. John Vianney, Sherman
	4:00p	St. James, Riverton



Wednesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

4:45 pm Children's choir preludes

5:00 pm Mass

9:30 pm Cantata

10:00 pm Mass

Thursday, December 25th - Christmas Day

9:00 am Mass

YOUTH CAROLING AND PIZZA PARTY!

The 8th grade through high school students are invited to gather **4:30 pm Friday, December 19**, at the Parish Center to go Christmas caroling to various parishioners, and then end the evening with a Pizza party. Chaperone/Adult drivers will be needed. Call the parish office if you can assist.

Welcome into the Catholic Christian faith,

Douglas Michael Sommer,

infant son of Brian and Amy Sommer,
baptized Saturday, December 6, at the 5:30 pm Mass.

Douglas has an older brother, Curtis.

His Sponsors were Erik and Stephanie Habing.

LITURGISTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – December 20-21

	Saturday 5:30pm	Sunday 8:00am	Sunday 10:30 am
Eucharistic Ministers	Feraris/Tomashavich Deacon Tom	Eifert/G & C Leach	C & J Biesiada/Warren
Lector	C & D Kuntzman	J & N Calvert	Hostetler/Warren
Hospitality	Carrigan Family/Egizio	McWard Family	Decker Family
Servers	E & C McMinn/Ziegler	C, J & J Merriman	L & G Henson/Magro
Minister of Care		Vicki Walker	
Mass Coordinator	Frances Tomashavich	Jan and Carlo Catalano	Jeannette Waters

Church Dusters for the week of December 15: Lynn Alewelt and Michelle Bertrand

Art & Environment for next weekend: Conni Hutchinson

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 13 Sat	5:30 p	John W. Blasko †
Dec 14 Sun	8:00 a	Our Parish Family
	10:30 a	Rose Decatoire †
	6:00 p	Fr. James Sullivan †
Dec 15 Mon	8:00 a	All Souls †
Dec 16 Tue	6:45 a	Msg. Charles Mulcrone †
Dec 17 Wed	8:00 a	Jenny Pouh Family †
Dec 18 Thu	6:45 a	Liv & Dec'd Mbrs of Parish
Dec 19 Fri	8:00 a	Gene Thomas †
Dec 20 Sat	5:30 p	John Blasko †
Dec 21 Sun	8:00 a	John Brandis †
	10:30 a	Nieberding Family †

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

Sunday – December 14

- 9:10 a PSR Classes
- 6:00 p Confirmation Sacramental Prep Class

Monday – December 15

- 9:00 a Collection Counting Team 2 – (Foster, Spurlock, Waters)
- 6:30 p Advent Reconciliation Service

Tuesday – December 16

- 7:00p K – C Meeting

Wednesday – December 17

- 5:00 p Children's Choir Practice
- 6:30 p PSR Classes
- 6:30 p RCIA
- 7:00 p Red Kettle bell ringing – JC Penney
- 7:45 p Adult Choir Practice

Friday – December 19

- 4:30 p Youth Christmas Caroling and Pizza

Saturday – December 20

- 9:30 a Children's Choir Practice – final dress rehearsal

Sunday – December 21

- 9:10 a NO PSR Classes
- 6:00 p Christmas Musical Program

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

	Year to Date	Last Sunday
Collection	\$122,929.10	\$ 5,875.55
Electronic Funds	\$ 21,360.00	\$ 0.00
Bldg. Dev. Fund	\$ 8,070.00	\$ 627.00
EFT – Dev. Fund	\$ 2,290.00	\$ 0.00
Poor Fund	\$ 799.14	\$ 32.13

Children's Stewardship Offering to God

My good deed was . . .

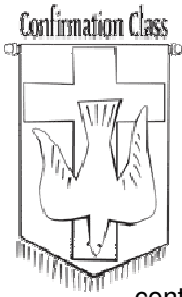
Helped clean the garage.
 Put away clean dishes.
 I helped my sister when her bag broke.
 I took care of my friend's little buddy at school.
 Helped my sister throw away her trash.
 I helped my sister go to sleep.

Stewardship Message

All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Daily Readings

- Sun.** - Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; Luke 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- Mon.** - Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17; Psalm 25:4-9; Matthew 21: 23-27
- Tue.** - Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Matthew 21:28-32
- Wed.** - Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17
- Thur.** - Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25
- Fri.** - Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Ps 71:3-6, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25.
- Sat.** - Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-6; Luke 1-26-38
- Sun.** - 2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Ps. 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Luke 1:26-38



CONFIRMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Advertiser of the Week

**Ruth Ann's Alterations & Custom Sewing
Springfield, Illinois**

217-529-4259

*Ruth Ann Helling, Parishioner
Over 25 years experience*

LOTTERY WINNERS\$ December 8-14

Mon. Cindy Scott
Tue. Kevin Noller
Wed. Mark Henson
Thu. Potter Family
Fri. Joanne Schultz
Sat. Schnepf Family
Sun. \$35 Evelyn Cannon (Bedore)

Please pick up your lottery checks in the Sacristy!

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

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).



Food for the Homeless

End the year on a high note! Help feed the homeless at *Helping Hands Homeless Shelter* on Monday, Dec. 29th.

1. Food is needed, there is a **Menu Wish List** on the church bulletin board and also in the Parish Center. Just check off what you'd like to donate and add your name beside the item(s).
2. We will be cooking the food on Sunday, December 28th at the Parish Center. Call Jeanette Waters if you'd like to help!
3. We will be making *Goody Bags* for all the residents, a list of desired items is on the bulletin board.
4. Lastly, help is needed to serve the meal. Again, call Jeanette (529-7280) if you'd like to help!

NOTE: If your child is being Confirmed, this would be a great Community Service Project for them. **Thanks in advance for making a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate.**



HELPING HANDS
HOMELESS SHELTER

Jeanette Waters, 529-7280

"Friends" Christmas Gifts

This weekend and next we will begin collecting the "**Friends**" gifts. You may drop them off at the Parish Center before or after any of the weekend masses. Gifts and food baskets may also be dropped off at the Parish Office anytime during office hours. Thank you for your generosity and true Christmas Spirit!



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.

Victim Assistance

If you know someone close to you who has been the victim of sexual abuse by an individual representing the Catholic Church, there are Victim Assistance guides in the kiosk in the foyer of our Church. Together we can maintain a safe environment for all.



Children's Choir Christmas Musical

The St. Jude Children's Choir will be presenting "Joyland: A Children's Christmas Musical Teaching the Blessing of Giving" on **Sunday, December 21st at 6pm** in the Parish Center. The story is set in the Joyland Toy Store, where some unsold toys left behind on Christmas Eve come "alive" to show a family in need the "giving spirit" of the season just as God gave us the greatest gift in his only son, Jesus. Admission is \$2 or free with the donation of a toy which will be used for the annual St. Jude Christmas Friends program benefiting families of students attending St. Patrick's grade school. For more information, please contact Mike Spainhour. (498-9524 EXT. 12 or 528-4614)



of our community.

Gather around the "Red Kettle" to ring the bell for Salvation Army this coming Saturday, December 13th 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

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



You can purchase Dan's homemade jelly for \$3.00 per jar beginning this weekend in the entrance way to the church. This year's flavors include Blackberry, Blackberry/Pineapple. All profits from this sale will support the Mission trip group as they prepare to go to Catholic Heart Work Camp in Denver.



A singles adult group is forming here in Rochester. If you are interested in joining with other adult singles for some good clean fun you are invited to attend a potluck on Saturday, January 10, 2009 at 6:00pm at the Rochester United Methodist Church Gym. Call Sue Endsley at 498-7179 or Linda Sichlau 414-5666 to register.

The Rochester United Methodist Church is sponsoring a concert by the Southern Gospel Quartet, Two BY Two, on Saturday, January 17th at 7:00pm. The public is cordially invited to attend this outstanding community event.

See the posters on the bulletin board for further details on these two events.

Find help for your troubled marriage through the next **RETROUVAILLE** Program that starts February 6 – 8, 2009 with a Weekend and has six follow-up sessions held over three months. You need not be Catholic to attend and we can work with People having financial difficulties. For confidential information, call Beth and Dave at 314-837-8576. Or call 1-800-470-2230 toll free or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Advent Novena

Church of the Little Flower, for the 14th year, is sponsoring the Advent Novena. The Novena (Latin for nine) begins at 6:15pm each night, December 15th through December 23rd, in the Chapel. Each night there is time for song, prayer and reflection. It lasts about forty minutes and is a great way to end the day. You do not have to be able to attend all nine sessions in order to participate. What a wonderful way to get a prayerful break from the usual busy-ness of this time of year.



Third Sunday in Advent