

*Notes from  
Fr. Dean*



Dear Parishioners,

The **Advent Season** of waiting patiently and preparing expectantly is nearing an end. The Scripture reminds us from Isaiah that God comes to dwell within us as

announced to Mary in the Gospel. May we reflect the image of our Blessed Mother in opening our hearts to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Savior.

I am grateful to those who braved the weather to open their hearts to God's forgiving love. The priests voiced their delight in you and our having the penance service in the parish center. If you haven't taken the opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Penance**, there are still two community services being held today (Sunday): one at 2:00 pm at St. John Vianney Church in Sherman and another at 4:00 pm at St. James Church in Riverton.

**Joyland: A children's musical program for all ages** will be held at **6 pm Sunday** (today) in our parish center. Come share the joy!

**Decorating the Church** for the Christmas Season...the purples, blue and pink will be changed to red and green. You are welcome to come **7:00 pm Monday** to help the Art and Environment committee prepare the Church for the feast of Christmas.

Due to the Church being set up with additional chairs, flowers and nativity scene for the Christmas Season, there will not be any Mass scheduled on Tuesday morning, December 23. The parish office will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for Christmas. I will be available for calls at 498-7133.

In regard to the anticipated usual overflowing crowd at the first Mass of Christmas (5 pm Christmas Eve), I would request that we follow the Diocesan guidelines of **not reserving seats with coats, etc.** Take a seat as you come.

The staff joins me in extending prayerful blessings of **Christmas joy, peace and love** to each of you. You are being remembered in my prayers especially at Mass throughout the Christmas Season. Safe travel to all.

**Merry Christmas**  
Fr. Dean

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



**Maude & John Kenworth** (Parishioners)  
**Mary Beth Vetter** (Teri Dambacher's sister)  
**John Hermes** (Jan Catalano's brother)  
**Joe Spannagel** (Jill Whitney's father)  
**Lyndell Lindsay** (grandfather of Ellen Schoedel, David Lacy and Liz Kondelis)

**Doug Ginter** (son of Marie & George Ginter)

**Tom Rebbe** (Dave & Tess Riedle's brother-in-law)

**Phillip Goraczkowski** (Ruth Helling'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.)

**Also, please pray for the repose of the soul** of Steve Watkins, friend and co-worker of Ellen Schoedel & Ilana Grenda, who died in November.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES**

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



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve**

4:45 pm Children's choir preludes

**5:00 pm Mass**

9:30 pm Music Cantata

**10:00 pm Mass**

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day**

**9:00 am Mass**

**Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 pm Mass

**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am and 10:30 am Masses

**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



**Reminder . . .**

Come early to get a seat for the Christmas Eve Mass celebrations.

Please note: No reserving of seats:

## 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 21<sup>st</sup>** 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).

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Dec 20 Sat</b>	5:30 p	John W. Blasko †
<b>Dec 21 Sun</b>	8:00 a	John Brandis †
	10:30 a	Nieberding Family †
<b>Dec 22 Mon</b>	8:00 a	Rita Kade-Griffin
<b>Dec 23 Tue</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Dec 24 Wed</b>	5:00 p	Our Parish Family
	10:00 p	Living & Deceased Mbrs
<b>Dec 25 Thu</b>	9:00 a	Pastor's Intentions
<b>Dec 26 Fri</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Dec 27 Sat</b>	5:30 p	Jacob Palmatier †
<b>Dec 28 Sun</b>	8:00 a	Rose Beeve †
	10:30 a	Mary L. Thompson †

### Daily Readings

**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

**Mon.** - 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8; Lk 1:46-56

**Tue.** - Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14;  
Lk 1:57-66

**Wed.** - 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 ; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27,  
29;  
Lk 1:67-79

**Thur.** - Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6

**Fri.** - Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17;  
Mt 10:17-22

**Sat.** - 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1-8

**Sun.** - Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21;  
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

## HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

**Sunday – December 21**

**6:00 p** Children's Christmas Musical Program

**Monday – December 22**

**7:00 p** Decorating the Church for Christmas



4th Sunday of Advent

**PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON  
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**

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

	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Last Sunday</b>
Collection	\$127,597.63	\$ 4,568.53
Electronic Funds	\$ 23,815.00	\$ 2,455.00
Bldg. Dev. Fund	\$ 8,469.00	\$ 399.00
EFT – Dev. Fund	\$ 2,570.00	\$ 280.00
Poor Fund	\$ 808.77	\$ 9.63

### Children's Stewardship Offering to God My good deed was . . .

I played nice with my friends.  
I made the bed.

#### Stewardship Message

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" – "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." – that the promise finds fulfillments

## LOTTERY WINNERS\$ December 15-21

**Mon.** Brenda Will  
**Tue.** Connie Leach  
**Wed.** Fr. Pat Cahill Scholarship (Keen)  
**Thu.** Mayme Benson  
**Fri.** Judy Bedore  
**Sat.** Shirley Crawford  
**Sun.** \$35 Dean Possley

**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

### Advertiser of the Week

**UCB**  
**United Community Bank**  
483-2491  
*Jim Lauwerens*  
Vice President - Lending