



Notes from  
Fr. Dean



Dear Parishioners,

The **Advent Season** of waiting patiently and preparing expectantly is nearing an end. The Scripture reminds us to follow the example of Mary and her son Jesus, in response to God, "Behold, I come to do your will."

If you haven't taken the opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Penance**, there are still two opportunities. Opportunities for celebrating God's Mercy before Christmas include the **Penance Services** being held today at the **Cathedral in Springfield at 2 pm** and also at **St. James Church, Riverton at 4 pm**.

**The Mystery of Simon Shepherd:** 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 **1:00 pm Monday** to help the Art and Environment committee prepare the Church for the feast of Christmas.

**The parish office** will be close on Wednesday at noon, and be closed Thursday and Friday for Christmas. I will be available for calls at 498-7133 or in emergency at 494-6326.

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.



### Thank you for your generosity!

Friday morning a group of volunteers delivered a very large trailer of gifts to St. Patrick School, Springfield Terrace Nursing Home and Sojourn Women and Children's Center. Along with the gifts we also delivered 43 food baskets.

Without your help, **MANY** children, their families and the elderly residents of Springfield Terrace would not have had the exciting and bountiful Christmas that they enjoyed. May God bless each and every one of you for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

## HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

### Sunday – December 20

#### No PSR Classes

- 9:15 a RCIA  
4- 6 p Visitation at Church (Frank Beeve+)  
6:00 p The Mystery of Simon Shepherd:  
Children's Christmas Program

### Monday – December 21

- 8:30 a Morning Prayer  
9:00 a Collection Counting Team 3: Lower,  
Helling, McClintock  
10:00 a Funeral Mass for Frank Beeve  
1:00 p Art & Environment – Decorate Church  
5:00 p Rosary

### Tuesday – December 22

- 7:15 a Rosary  
8:30 a Morning Prayer  
7:00 p JC Penneys "Red Kettle" Bell Ringing

### Wednesday – December 23

- 7:30 a Rosary  
8:30 a Morning Prayer  
Noon **Parish Office Closes**

### Thursday – December 24

- Parish Offices closed**  
7:15 a Rosary

### Sunday – December 27

#### No PSR Classes



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Mass 10:00 pm Mass

### Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day

9:00 am Mass

### Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

5:30 pm Mass

### Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am and 10:30 am Masses

### Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Eve

5:00 pm

### Friday, 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:

## LITURGISTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – Volunteers

<b>Mass Coordinator</b>	<b>Saturday 5:30pm</b>	<b>Sunday 8:00am</b>	<b>Sunday 10:30 am</b>
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Monica Lower	Jan/Carlo Catalano	Vicki Walker
	Mary Ann Egizio	Nancy Calvert,	Barb Scheufele
	Frances Tomashavich	Jerry Calvert	David Curtin
<b>Lector</b>	Sarah Kerley	Lenna DeGroot/Kathy Smith	David Curtin
<b>Hospitality</b>	Decker Family	Brian/Brenda Will Family	Ed/Judy Bedore
<b>Servers</b>	Megan & David Western	Madeline & Amelia Lafferty	Jackie Foster/Connor Vose
<b>Minister of Care</b>		Fr. Dean	

**Church Dusters for the week of December 21:** Cindy Scott & Donna Spurlock  
**Art & Environment for next weekend:** Michelle Naffziger  
**Children's Liturgy of the Word for next weekend:** No Clow  
**Recycling Volunteers for December:** Del Reeves  
**St. Martin's Food Volunteers for December:** David Waters Family

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Dec 19 Sat</b>	5:30 p	Gene Thomas †
<b>Dec 20 Sun</b>	8:00 a	Our Parish Family
	10:30 a	Nieberding Family †
<b>Dec 21 Mon</b>	5:30 p	Helen Peifer Family †
<b>Dec 22 Tue</b>	6:45 a	Margo & Mary Anne Helson †
<b>Dec 23 Wed</b>	8:00 a	Mary Willenborg †
<b>Dec 24 Thu</b>	5:00 p	For the Parish
	10:00 p	For Living/Deceased Members
<b>Dec 25 Fri</b>	9:00 a	For Living/Deceased Members
<b>Dec 26 Sat</b>	5:30 p	Bill Sinkus †
<b>Dec 27 Sun</b>	8:00 a	Jacob Palmatier †
	10:30 a	Our Parish Family

The cross reflects those who have died; non-cross reflects special intention for those still living.

### DAILY READINGS:

#### December 20-27

<b>Sun</b> –	Mi 5:1-4; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45
<b>Mon</b> –	Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
<b>Tue</b> –	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Lk 1:46-56
<b>Wed</b> –	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
<b>Thu</b> –	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
<b>Fri</b> –	Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
<b>Sat</b> –	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16, 17; Mt 10:17-22
<b>Sun</b> –	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52

### OUR GIFT TO GOD Fiscal Year 7/1/09 – 6/30/10

	Year to Date	Last Sunday
Collection	\$121,930.81	\$ 5,570.06
Electronic Funds	\$ 23,584.40	\$
Bldg. Dev. Fund	\$ 8,787.14	\$ 575.00
EFT – Dev. Fund	\$ 2,630.00	\$
Poor Fund	\$ 464.00	\$ 49.00

**Children's Stewardship:** Collection \$ 7.75

Among the deeds: shared my toys with friends; made my bed; welcomed guests; helped with Christmas Friends

#### Stewardship Message

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

Annual Catholic Services appeal: Goal: \$35,000.00  
 As of 11/24/09: 93 Contributors Pledged: \$15,089.00

**DISCOUNT COUPON BOOKS:** The Discount Coupons include automobile maintenance, various entertainment for children/family, and 2 for 1 meals at various restaurants. The \$25 coupon book makes for good Christmas gifts and supports the Youth Mission Group. The coupons are good through March 2011!



### Please pray for the sick

**Maude & John Kenworth** (Parishioners)  
**Ray Roland** (parishioner)  
**David Yoggerst** (parishioner)  
**Gary Dumonceaux** (parishioner)  
**Beverly Zimmerman** (sister of Tom Bowen)  
**Mary Beth Vetter** (sister of Teri Dambacher)

**Barbara Barnett** (niece of Joan Mavis)

**Barbara Williams** (mother of Doug Williams)

(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 our parishioner, **Frank Beeve**, who died Wednesday evening. The wake will be here at St. Jude Church on Sunday evening from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. The Funeral mass will be Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. Martha's Group will serve a lunch after the burial.

### Advertiser of the Week

#### AREA HOME DETAILING

Ed Gibson - 622-7744

Carpet Cleaning - Power Washing - Mowing  
 Interior Painting - Window Washing

### BUTTERBRAID & COOKIE DOUGH ORDERS.

If you didn't get them last weekend, please pick up your orders in the parish center after any Mass.