

DECEMBER 5, 2010

Mass Intentions:

Wednesday, Dec. 8 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Holy Day of Obligation)

6:00 p.m.-Guntram & Annie Janak &
Ben A. Janak

Sunday, December 12

9:15 a.m.-Wence & Jonathan Shimek

Sunday, December 19

9:15 a.m.-Living & Deceased Members of the
Adolph & Justina Matusek Family

Saturday, December 25 (Midnight)

12:00 a.m.-August Fikac

Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

9:15 a.m.-Living & Deceased Members of the
Theo Hermes Family

Sunday, December 26

9:15 a.m.-Leon Sitka

Saturday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

9:15 a.m.-Joe & Olga Targac

Sunday, January 2-

9:15 a.m.-Living & Deceased Members of the
Rosary Society

MASS ATTENDANCE:

Nov. 1—190 Nov. 7—300 Nov. 14—320
Nov. 21—295 Nov. 28—310

OUR GIFT TO GOD - Loose Envelope

November 1-	\$ 36.00	\$ 39.00
November 7-	\$186.50	\$517.00
November 14-	\$201.00	\$492.00
November 21-	\$ 66.38	\$310.00
November 28-	\$156.75	\$577.00
Children's Collection:	\$59.24	
Building Repair Fund:	\$612.00	

ROSARY LEADERS:

Dec. 8-Sandy Konvicka
Dec. 12-Ruth Rouse
Dec. 19-Lucille Klekar
Dec. 25-Janie Fikac (Midnight)
Dec. 25-Dorothy Schneider
Dec. 26-Sandy Konvicka
Jan. 1-Janie Fikac
Jan. 2-Ruth Rouse



LECTORS:

Dec. 8-CCD Class
Dec. 12-Dedie Dobbs
Dec. 19-Garrett Henke
Dec. 25-Daniel J. Matula (Midnight)
Dec. 25-Anthony Matula
Dec. 26-Dorothy Schneider
Jan. 1-Maria Hermes
Jan. 2-Dedie Dobbs

CANTORS:

Dec. 8-Ruth Rouse
Dec. 12-Lucille Klekar
Dec. 19-Emily Schimcek
Dec. 25-Ruth Rouse (Midnight)
Dec. 25-Richard Rouse
Dec. 26-Laurence Bludau
Jan. 1-Ruth Rouse
Jan. 2-Lucille Klekar

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:

Dec. 8-Janice Rother & Vivian Mozisek
Dec. 12-Leon & Nancy Etzler, Trina Sommerlatte
Dec. 19-Anthony & Joyce Bludau & Dedie Dobbs
Dec. 25-(Midnight) Billy & Bev Hrnecir, Patrick Pesek
Dec. 25-Vivian Mozisek & Janice Rother
Dec. 26-Leon & Nancy Etzler, Scott Sommerlatte
Jan. 1-Edward & Sandra Pustka
Jan. 2-Anthony & Joyce Bludau & Pat Mladenka

OFFERTORY GIFT BEARERS:

Dec. 8-CCD Class
Dec. 12-The Wence Shimek Family
Dec. 19-M/M Donald Bludau & Family
Dec. 25-M/M Marvin Bujnoch (Midnight)
Dec. 25-M/M Glenn Dobbs
Dec. 26-M/M Billy Gerke & Sons
Jan. 1-M/M Eugene Gillar
Jan. 2-M/M Roman Henke & Garrett

CHURCH CLEANERS:

Dec. 11-Rosalie Tobola, Glenda Tobola & Angeline
Ulcak
Dec. 18-Helen(Dornak)Janak, Gussie Kelnar & Helen
Janak
Dec. 24-Charlene Klekar, Janice Rother & Sue Cinadr
Dec. 31-Joyce Janak, Anita Steffek, Helen Technik &
Ruth Rouse



From the Desk of Fr. John

December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which is the Feast Day of our parish. We will have Mass that evening at 6:00 p.m. followed by soup and sandwiches in the parish hall.

Advent. A child is coming: as for any birth, we must prepare. The Advent season is a gift, rich with opportunities to ready our lives for the embrace of our Savior.

One powerful way to prepare for the gift of Jesus is to turn away from the outside noise and pressure and take a few quiet moments to pray with the Church. Use your church bulletin (or visit www.mydailyvisitor.com) to look up the Mass readings for each day. If you can, take time to attend daily Mass; use it as a period of refreshment in the midst of the busy-ness all around.

Even during our most hectic times, we can still “watch and wait” with the Church. Everything else that we do during Advent can echo what we hear in God’s Word and the church’s prayer. Our Advent wreaths are physical reminders of the coming light and the prophecies fulfilled. When we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we acknowledge our darkness and need, and rejoice in the light of forgiveness offered through the Child.

Joining our thoughts and prayers to those of the Communion of Saints whose feasts occur during this season – Ambrose, Lucy, John of the Cross, Juan Diego, and others – helps us hear John the Baptist’s call along with these holy men, women, and even children who have gone before us in faith. Just as they heard and responded, so can we.

At Christmas, we celebrate God’s gift of Jesus to the world. The very name of the day and the season – “Christ’s Mass,” derived from the Old English way of speaking of it – places Jesus, present to us in the Eucharist, at the center of the day. Might this Christmas be the beginning of a closer friendship with Jesus, nurtured by the Eucharist?

Christmas is rich with symbols. We put up Christmas trees, nativity sets, and lights, all beautiful in their own right – and all symbols of the deeper, richer dimensions of meaning that our Faith brings to this season.

Christmas trees, being evergreens, speak to us of God’s eternal life and love, embodied in Christ. They also recall the tree in the garden through which sin came into the world, and the tree of the crucifixion by which that sin was conquered. Saying a prayer as we put up our tree, and making sure that some of our ornaments evoke the Nativity, can help bring this “home” to us.

The Nativity scene, or *crèche* (“crib” in French), was popularized by St. Francis of Assisi in the thirteenth century out of a desire to bring home the reality of the humility and love of Christ.

ALTAR SERVERS:

Dec. 8-CCD Class

Dec. 12-Erin Svetlik, Michael Perdizak,
Luke Scherer & Joshua Bludau

Dec. 19-Hunter & Kolby Janak, Adam Hermes &
Kelton Koehne

Dec. 25-Eric Klekar, Jacob Janak, Ross & Clay
Rother (Midnight)

Dec. 25-Mikayla, John & Derek Konvicka &
Alexius Mizera

Dec. 26-Samuel & Simon Machicek, Joshua
Bludau & Kaitlyn Rother

Jan. 1-Ross & Clay Rother, Hunter & Kolby
Janak

Jan. 2-Eric Klekar, Jacob Janak, Michael
Perdizak & Luke Scherer

CHURCH USHERS:

Dec. 8-CCD Class

Dec. 12-Leon Matula, Al Svetlik, Frances Klekar &
Sidney Jasek

Dec. 19-Eugene Gillar, Robert Sciba, Bernard Patek &
Richard Sommerlatte

Dec. 25-Alois Bujnoch, Scott Blaschke, Gilbert
Mozisek & Marvin Bujnoch (Midnight)

Dec. 25-Roman Henke, Robert Pustka, Gilbert Urbish
& Charles Grafe

Dec. 26-Leon Matula, Al Svetlik, Frances Klekar &
Sidney Jasek

Jan. 1-Eugene Gillar, Robert Sciba, Bernard Patek &
Richard Sommerlatte

Jan. 2-Alois Bujnoch, Scott Blaschke, Gilbert
Mozisek & Marvin Bujnoch



Messages & Announcements:

Dec. 8th-Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Holy Day of Obligation: Soup & sandwiches will be served in the Parish Hall after the 6:00 p.m. Mass.

KJT #15 Smothers Creek—meeting & Christmas Party, Sunday, Dec. 5, 11 am, Blasé’s Hall. Meal & refreshments will be served. Members, bring a side dish or dessert. Family members & guests are welcome.

Wied KJT Society #43 will meet on New Year’s Eve, (Dec. 31st) at 7 pm, St. Mary’s Parish Hall. Members, bring snacks or finger foods, & your favorite beverage. Family members & guests invited to attend.

CCD News

Dec. 8th—Youth Mass at 6PM
Dec. 15, 22, 29—No CCD-Christmas Holidays
Jan. 5th—CCD resumes at 6PM

Altar Server Training/Practice@ 7PM

A Christmas Card was recently received from Jean Paul Anthony Montenegro Munoz, the foreign student sponsored by St. Mary’s youth through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Christmas Donation: Anyone wishing to donate towards the purchase of poinsettias for the Christmas Season can do so by putting their money in an envelope and placing it in the collection basket. Donations can be made in memory of a loved one. Any questions call the rectory at 798-2128.

MEMORIALS TO ST. MARY’S CHURCH

In Memory of Mary Bujnoch

Larry & Agnes Greer & Sons.....\$10.00
Daniel H. Kubena.....\$20.00
Larry & Doris Grubert.....\$10.00
Victor & Magdalen Steffek.....\$15.00
Dorothy Stavinoha.....\$20.00
Peoples State Bank.....\$10.00

In Memory of Herman Sciba

Bruce & Karen Bludau.....\$10.00
Peoples State Bank.....\$10.00

In Memory of Jerome Bujnoch

Forest & Carol Sevcik.....\$10.00
Michael & Tanya Woytek.....\$15.00
Ron & Diane Broussard.....\$10.00
Kubena Funeral Home.....\$40.00
Mark & Stephanie Klesel.....\$20.00
Henry & Ann Kostelnik.....\$10.00

Financial Report – October, 2010

Income

Sunday Collections.....\$2,908.89
Children’s Collections..... 52.00
Other Church Donations..... 170.00
Votive Stand..... 33.45
Church & Hall Rental..... 1,000.00
Memorials..... 270.00
In Honor of Vic & Katherine Kahanek’s
50th Wedding Anniversary..... 25.00
Special Collection (Mission Sunday)... 188.00
Total Income from October..... \$4,647.34

Expenses

Utilities.....\$1,094.84
Health Insurance..... 849.50
Church Expenses..... 192.84
Cathedral Corp.-Church Envelopes.... 367.77
Special collection(Mission Sunday).... 188.00
Hall Expenses..... 703.94
Priest Pension Plan..... 435.00
Salaries..... 675.00
Repair & Maintenance..... 231.96
Total Expenses for October..... \$4,738.85

Balance from September.....\$ 4,691.53
October Income.....+4,647.34
Less October Expenses.....-4,738.85
Operating Balance..... \$4,600.02

Memorials to St. Mary’s Church

In Memory of Jerome Bujnoch

Cecilia E. Opela.....\$10.00
Rosalie Tobola.....\$10.00
Ronnie & Mary Leck.....\$15.00
R.L. & Elsie Orsak.....\$10.00
Bernard & Mary Grahmann.....\$10.00
Clyde & Edna Wehman.....\$10.00
Garry & Geraldine Dornak.....\$10.00
Richard & JoNell Vacek.....\$ 7.00
Daniel & Glenda Tobola.....\$10.00
Phillip & Nanci Hadash.....\$20.00
Miranda Moses.....\$ 5.00

(More memorials in next month’s bulletin.)

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Veselé Vánoce a šťastný Nový Rok

Frohe Weihnachten und Glückliches Neues Jahr

Feliz Navidad y Feliz Año Nuevo



Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

December 2010

Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Merry "Xmas"

The word "Christmas" comes from the Old English "Cristes Maesse," or "Christ's Mass." The first letter of the name of Christ in Greek is X. The word "Xmas" was ancient shorthand for "Christ's Mass" long before it came into secular use.

The first crèche

Early in his ministry, St. Francis of Assisi wanted to help people experience the miracle of the Nativity. So he assembled a living Nativity scene – a crèche – with a live baby in a manger, townspeople dressed as Mary and Joseph, shepherds, wise men, and more. The crèche remains a Christmas custom all over the world.

Mary's "Yes"

Long ago, when the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree. God gave us free will

to allow us to make our own choices. We can choose to love him or not. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) has been amazing.



The most exciting gifts still come on Christmas

The thrill of receiving presents at Christmas is exciting to a child but fades as we become adults. Yet

the gifts we receive at Christmas are the most thrilling part of the holiday at any age.

The gift of love.

It is an amazing truth that God came to Earth as a baby and lived among us. When we open our hearts to that baby, we learn that he loves us more than we can imagine. Our first Christmas present is the gift of love.

The gift of hope. It is a sad fact that we often turn away from God in sin. The baby born on the first Christmas came to free us from sin and

offer us the hope of something better. Our second Christmas gift is hope.

The gift of family. It is our family that gives us strength, helps us heal, and keeps us safe. Baptism brings us into the family of Christ. "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God" (1John 3:1). The gift of family is our third Christmas gift.

The gift of

Heaven. Without that amazing birth long ago, Heaven would be beyond our reach. Baby Jesus changed all that. The best gift of all this Christmas is the gift of Heaven.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we tell the story of the Magi?

The story of the Magi who visit the Christ Child is found in Matthew 2:1-12. Legend identifies them as Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They traveled "from the East" to visit the newborn



King of the Jews. The gifts they brought were gold (a gift for a king), frankincense (a gift for a priest), and myrrh (a burial spice).

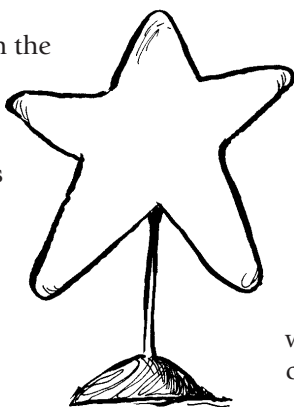
The Magi are symbolic of all nations. This story reminds us that Jesus came to save all people,

not just the Jews.

Celebrate a simple Christmas

The season of Advent is an important one in the Church year but often gets overshadowed by the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle. It may not be practical to fully retreat from the world during the four weeks before Christmas but simplifying your holiday may help.

Decide what is important. List all of the activities and events you are offered during the holidays. Include both personal and professional activities. Think about what Christmas really means and put a star next to



any activity that is in keeping with the true spirit of love, wonder, and awe. Decline the rest.

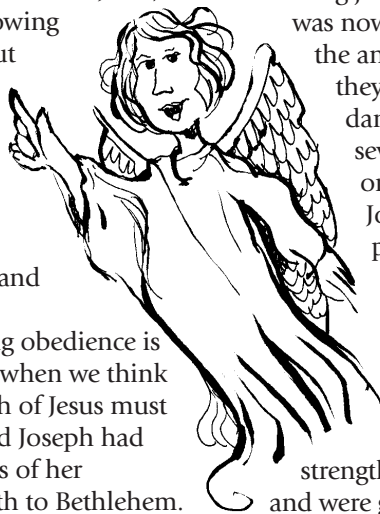
Rethink gift-giving habits. The Season of Giving doesn't have to mean over-shopping, over-spending, and over-stressing. Come up with a reasonable budget that doesn't involve running up debt and stick to it. Then resolve to buy simple gifts. For example, get all the adults on your list the same thing so you can buy several at a time: local wine or beer, tickets to the movies, or restaurant gift certificates.

from Scripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, St. Joseph was used to following orders from God without question. So when the angel appeared to him in his sleep urging him to flee to Egypt, Joseph obeyed immediately. He trusted that God would take care of him and his new family.

Joseph's unquestioning obedience is particularly remarkable when we think about what the real birth of Jesus must have been like. Mary and Joseph had traveled in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. On foot or donkey, it was a dirty,



exhausting journey. Once there, there was nowhere to stay except with the animals. After a short time, they fled to Egypt to escape danger, and stayed there for several years without family or friend. Through it all, Joseph trusted God to protect his family.

As a father, St. Joseph knew his share of pain and difficulties much like our own experience. Yet Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph found strength from their faith in God and were guided by his Word. We can do the same.

Q & A

Who was Juan Diego?

Cuauhtlatotzin was an indigenous farmer in Mexico who was baptized after the Spanish conquest of Mexico in 1521. He took the Christian name of Juan Diego.



One day in 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego and asked that he visit the local bishop to request that a church be built where she appeared.

The bishop was skeptical and asked for proof. At her next appearance, Mary instructed Juan Diego to fill his tilma (cape) with the flowers that were blooming out of season there and take them to the bishop. When Juan Diego unfolded his tilma, the flowers spilled out to reveal an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Nine million Indians converted to Christianity as a result of St. Juan Diego's evangelization.

Pope John Paul II said of St. Juan Diego, "Juan Diego represents all the indigenous peoples who accepted the Gospel of Jesus, thanks to the maternal aid of Mary." We celebrate his feast day on December 9th and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th.

Feasts & Celebrations

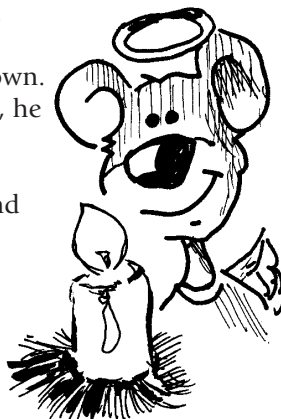
December is the month in which we anticipate the coming of Christ and begin the celebration of his birth.

Dec. 8 - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the day we celebrate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin. This is a Holy Day of Obligation meaning that Catholics are required to attend Mass.

Dec. 26 - The Holy Family (1st century). We celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - three people who lived for God. By their love and support of one another the

Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.

Dec. 27 - St. John (1st century). An apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. He once asked Jesus if he could call down fire from heaven on an inhospitable town. Later in his life, he and St. Peter asked the Holy Spirit to descend on the Samaritans. Friendship with Jesus really changes a person.



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