

Praised be Jesus Christ!

I cannot believe that Christmas is here on Friday already! Christmas is the time to remember that God loves us so much He gave us all He had – His only Son! We need to be so grateful for His self-sacrificing love and keep focused on just what this blessed season means!

I want you to invite everyone you know to Midnight Mass this week. This is my favorite Mass of the year! Together, we will celebrate the birth of our savior! He was born to save us from our sins, and He is so faithful and loving to us, let us thank Him and praise Him on the night we remember His incarnation. Christmas Music starts at 11:30 PM.

Make sure that on this Christmas day you take time to be alone to pray; that you allow yourself to become as Mary was—that you let Jesus be born in you! This will mean that today or some time in these twelve days of Christmas you just sit in His presence and surrender yourself to Him – hold nothing back – give Him permission to have full control of every part of your life. If you do this, then this Christmas will not be just a secular celebration of giving and receiving, but a spiritual celebration of your relationship with the God of the universe who wants to live inside your skin!

In regard to this, as I remind you every year, and as I have already said, Christmas is such a big celebration that one day cannot contain it. That is why we have the twelve days of Christmas. That means you leave everything up until January 6th, and you don't say on December 26th or January 2nd :“Boy am I glad Christmas is over!” - - because it is not! When the God of the universe became man for us we can at least make it His celebration and not celebrate only with the world – so remember to keep holy the twelve days of Christmas!

Finally, just a little reminder that this Sunday, December 27th, from 4:00 PM to Midnight is our annual celebration for all the priests of the Diocese of Erie! They are already calling and eager to come, and they have said how they can't miss this, and all this is because of your great generosity in their regard! So please don't forget to bake or cook something for the priests or to bring some wine or other spirits for the party. I still need some people to set up and clean up – PLEASE! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I want to wish everyone a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. I am so thankful that God has blessed us with another Christmas together, and that He has blessed us so abundantly this past year; and I pray by God's grace that we are blessed with many, many more! Remember I love you, and may God Bless you+

In His love,
Fr. Larry

THE FOLLOWING HOURS ARE OPEN IN THE ADORATION CHAPEL: Sunday 12 AM, 1 AM, 3 AM, 11 AM, 4 PM and 5 PM; Monday 6 PM and 11 PM; Tuesday 12 AM, 1 AM, and 3 AM; Wednesday 10 PM and 11 PM; Thursday 12 AM, 1 AM, 2 AM, 8 AM, 7 PM, 8 PM and 11 PM; Friday 12 AM, 2 AM, and 12 PM, 2 PM & 6 PM; Saturday 12 AM, 3 AM, 5 AM and 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM, 8 PM, and 11 PM. We are also still in need of a Division Coordinator for the hours from 6 PM to 11 PM; and Hour Coordinators for 1 AM & 2 PM Call Sherry at 864-0283 or Ruthann at 868-0308.

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY'S next Selected Study, *The Bible and The Mass*, will explore what the Bible teaches us about the Mass as we look at the ultimate meaning of the Eucharistic sacrifice. Explore with us how through the Liturgy of Eucharist we offer ourselves back to God as we were taught to do in the Bible! Beginning 1-14-10 through 2-25-10 at St. Joseph/BOL Parish with day & evening sessions being offered. Childcare available. Contact Dawn Schaaf 835-8110. Registration deadline December 28th!

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULES: January schedules are available in the vestibule and on our website this weekend and the weekend of December 26-27, 2009. If you are not able to pick up your schedule or view it on the website, call Nancy in the parish office or stop in the office for a schedule during regular business hours. Schedules will not be mailed unless you call and make that request.

THE SAINT JOSEPH'S YOUTH GROUP will be taking about 20 kids and some chaperones down to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. If you cannot go to the March, but still want to support the pro-life movement, we would greatly appreciate you sponsoring the Youth Group on our journey. The cost per participant is \$50.00. In the back of the church, we will be selling Romolo's chocolate. We are also accepting donations of all sizes to sponsor our trip. Thank You!

EXPECTING A BABY? Then please plan to join other expectant mothers for an evening of prayer, meditation, and reflection on Thursday, January 7th at 7 PM. We will meet upstairs in the main room of the Community Center. As you get ready to welcome your baby, take some time to pamper your soul! Open to all expectant mothers. If you would like to attend, please contact Therese Brown at 864-8746 or email therese.d.brown@gmail.com.

THIRTY-ONE CLUB: The following parishioners will be offering Mass for vocations during this week: December 20th – Shirley Ireland; December 21st – Mary Rizzo; December 22nd – Diane Kiehlmier; December 23rd – Ruthann DiSanza; December 24th – Sr. Gerry Olon and Sr. Colette Palmer; December 25th – Kathy Tarasovitch; December 26th – June Klins.

CHURCH DECORATING: We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 20th, beginning right after the 11:00 AM Mass. We need YOUR help!

ST. JOSEPH NOVENA AND HOLY HOUR: Please note that there will be NO Novena & Holy Hour on Wednesdays, December 23rd and 30th, due to the Christmas and New Year schedules. Novena and Holy Hour will resume after the holidays. Watch the bulletin for more information.

PENANCE SERVICE: Our annual Advent Penance Service will be held on Monday, December 21st, beginning at 7:00 PM in the church. Eight priests – Father Larry, Father Wright, Father Dennis Martin, Father Robert Levis, Father Edward Krause, Father Nick Rouch, Father John Detisch, and Father Michael Kesicki – will be available to hear confessions and get us prepared for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: This is your last chance to make a donation for Christmas flowers. Envelopes are on the table in the back of the church. Remember your living and deceased loved ones at Christmas. We have collected \$381.00 so far (as of last weekend).

CHURCH CANDLES: Money has been donated for 34 of our brand new “liquid” Church candles. Sixteen are still available for you to donate in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Donation is \$100.00 per candle. Call the parish office with your request.

FELLOWSHIP: We have two needs for Fellowship after 8:30 AM Mass and after 11:00 AM Mass to continue smoothly – (1) We need volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up because the leaders of the ministry and current volunteers should NOT have to do it all; (2) We need people to bring goodies to share. The doughnuts provided by the parish are given to “fill in” when we have an extra-large crowd to feed! If you can PLEASE help in either way, call Christina at 866-3790 (8:30 Fellowship) or Amy at 602-7405 (11:00 Fellowship.)

Masses For the Week

- Saturday (12/19) *Anticipated Mass for Sunday***
5:15 PM + Deceased of the Wilkinson Family (Dee & Dave)
- Sunday (12/20) *Fourth Sunday of Advent***
8:30 AM + James Hoffman (Family)
11:00 AM + Living & Deceased of the Parish
- Monday (12/21) *Peter Canisus, priest & doctor***
7:00 AM + Joseph Spano (M/M Clifford Steer)
11:30 AM + Lisetta Franzese (Janet Meola)
- Tuesday (12/22) *Late Advent Weekday***
7:00 AM + Rev. Mark Knoll (Family)
11:30 AM + Nicky Howard (Barb)
- Wednesday (12/23) *John of Kanty, priest***
7:00 AM + Don Smith (Dolores Smith)
11:30 AM + Frank Lehner (Family)
- Thursday (12/24) *Late Advent Weekday***
7:00 AM + Hank & Joanne Compennolle (Nancy)
11:30 AM + Bud & Connie Lehner (Cheryl)
Christmas Eve
5:15 PM + Michael Matson—Anniv. (Family)
Midnight + Fr. Samuel Houpt—Anniv. (Gerry Ryan)
- Friday (12/25) *Christmas Day***
8:30 AM + John Kress (Frank & Patty Dudkiewicz)
11:00 AM + Art Bielanin (Family)
- Saturday (12/26) *Anticipated Mass for Sunday***
5:15 PM + Mary Ellen Erhart (Mission Club)
- Sunday (12/27) *Feast of the Holy Family***
8:30 AM + Joe Garpetti—Anniv. (Family)
11:00 AM + Living & Deceased of the Parish

Week December 13, 2009

Offertory	\$ 6461.36
Stewardship	\$ 746.00
On-line Giving	\$ 925.00
Weekly Expenses	\$ 8542.00

Weekend of December 26th & 27th

- Saturday, December 26h 5:15 PM Fr. Larry**
- Sunday, December 27th 8:30 AM Fr. Wright**
- 11:00AM Fr. Larry**

If you have a special prayer intention for the month of December, please call Lillian Tonelli at 825-8540 or Chris Smith at 459-2236.

REMINDER: Volunteers, don't forget to return your reservation for the Volunteer Dinner to the office or in the collection basket by Monday, January 4th. NO RESERVATIONS CAN BE TAKEN AFTER THIS DATE.