

EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

Among the intentions for those who gather for the Eucharist this week will be:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2002

9:15AM CHARLES J. SMITH – Lee Bartle

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2002

7:00AM AGNES GIBSON – Family

9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2002

7:00AM JEAN URY – Jan & Dick Seils

9:15AM ST. RITA SCHOOL LITURGY FOR THE BENEFACTORS OF ST. RITA SCHOOL – St. Rita School Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2002

9:15AM SALVATORE POLITO – Joel & Mary Rose Vadala

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2002

9:15AM JOAN GENESKY – Family

Eucharistic Adoration following the 9:15am Mass until 6:00pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2002

5:00PM CHARLES & LEAN GARCZYNSKI – Chuck & Gail Garczynski

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2002

7:30AM JOHN PRINZING – Family

9:00AM JOHN HUDY – Verna & Phil Mendola

10:30AM DORIS RIEFLIN – Family

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This week the Tabernacle Light will burn in loving memory of Agnes Gibson

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We welcome the newest members of our parish family who were baptized this weekend:

- Audrey Marie Buddendeck**
- Nicholas Michael Sorochty**
- Madison Ann Sorochty**
- Alexander Joseph Klem**
- Mya Rose Tran**

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

As a kid, I remember being told, "Your motor's running . . . slow down"! That's not bad advice for all of us at this time of year. "Slow down". Advent is a season about "slowing down" ~ waiting ~ being patient ~ listening closely for the God who comes among us.

While the whole world around us wants to hurry toward Christmas, Advent invites us to slow down and celebrate the love of the Emmanuel ~ God with us.

For the vast majority of us, December flies by in a flurry of activities, and what is called "the holiday season" turns out to be the most stressful time of the year.

Even we who genuinely love Christmas often lose sight of its point. How many of us, content with familiar traditions and feelings of good will, forget the dank stable, the cold night, the closed door of the inn? How many of us share the longing of the ancient prophets, who awaited the Messiah with aching intensity thousands of years before he was born?

We miss the essence of Christmas unless we become, in the words of Eberhard Arnold, "mindful of how Christ's birth took place." Once we do, we will sense immediately that Advent marks something momentous: God's coming into our midst. That coming is not just something that happened in the past. It is a recurring possibility here and now. And thus Advent is not merely a commemorative event of an anniversary, but a yearly opportunity for us to consider the future, second Advent ~ the promised coming of God's kingdom on earth.

Watch For the Light

Happy Advent & slow down!
Peace,

PLANS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 1, 2002

SUNDAY

8:00-11:00AM BREAKFAST CLUB - Gym
 10:30 AM Babysitting during 10:30 Mass - Rm 4
2:00-4:00PM Family Eucharistic Adoration
 7:30PM BINGO at the K of C – Team 3

MONDAY

4:30-5:30PM Religious Education Classes
 6:30-7:30PM Religious Education Classes
 7:30PM Caregivers Support Group – Rm 3

TUESDAY

9:30-11:00AM M.O.M.S Group – Rms 1 & 3
 1:00PM Recovery – Rm 3
 4:30-5:30PM Religious Education Classes
 7:00PM Sr. High Youth Group – Barn
 7:15PM Scripture Study Group – Rm 3

WEDNESDAY

7:00PM Catholic & Christian – Rm 1
 7:30PM Confirmation Parent Meeting – Church
 7:30PM Lite Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 8:30PM Men's Basketball – Gym

THURSDAY

7:00PM Contemporary Choir Rehearsal – Church
 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 7:30PM Confirmation Parent Meeting – Church
 7:30PM Charismatic Prayer Group at St. Paul's

FRIDAY

10:00AM-6:00PM Eucharistic Adoration-Church
 2:00PM Jesus Rosary – Church
 7:00PM Single & Single Again – St. Paul's

SATURDAY

9:30AM-12:00 Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3 & Church
 11:00AM Dove Volunteer Reception – Rm 1

SUNDAY 12/8

4:00PM LESSONS & CAROLS – Church

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PARISH SUPPORT		
Last Week	Weekly Goal	Variance
\$12,329	\$12,654	- \$325
Year to Date	Year to Date Goal	Variance
\$245,721	\$253,139	- \$7,418
(The Church's fiscal year begins 7/1/02)		
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!		

BIBLE READINGS:

- 1 Sun **First Sunday of Advent** Is 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7 Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37
- 2 Mon Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11
- 3 Tue **St. Francis Xavier** Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 Lk 10:21-24
- 4 Wed **St. John of Damascus** Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37
- 5 Thu Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27 Mt 7:21,24-27
- 6 Fri **St. Nicholas** Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1,4,13-14 Mt 9:27-31
- 7 Sat **St. Ambrose** Is 30:19-21,23-26 Ps 147:1-6 Mt 9:35-10:1,6-8
- 8 Sun **Second Sunday of Advent** Is 40:1-5,9-11 Ps 85:9-14 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

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**ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED NEXT WEEKEND
 ~ DECEMBER 7 & 8**

Saturday, 5:00pm:

Matt Casselbury (c), Luke Casselbury (w), Adam Reask (b)

Sunday, 7:30am:

Patrick Crittenden(c), Kyle & Kayla Chapman (b&w)

Sunday, 9:00am:

Dan Padgett (c), Jeremy West (w), Sam Piekarczyk(b)

Sunday, 10:30am:

Lia Beauchemin (c), Kara Beauchemin (w), Courtney Weatherspoon (b), Emily Moore (o)

(c) -cross bearer, (w) - water, (b) -bowl, (o) -observer

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SACRISTAN:

Week of December 1 Shirly Mintz

LINENS:

Week of December 8 Maureen Morehouse

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BREAKFAST CLUB NEWS!

Each week a white contribution envelope is drawn from the collection. The person or family named on the envelope receives a free breakfast.

This week's winner: Mae Ross

Next Week's Special: Delicious Ham & Cheese Omelets with warm buttered toast and free coffee for a donation of \$3.00.

Flyers for Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 15 are on the tables in the Narthex.

Stepping Stones to Stewardship

In direct terms, Christian stewardship comes right from the very heart of what it means to be a Christian. Christian stewardship begins with the love at the core of Christ's message. Because of His love for us, God entrusts us with the priceless gift of life – along with our talents, abilities and all our possessions and earthly resources. Therefore we don't own what we perceive to be our holdings. God is their rightful owner, and we, who are their recipients, are managers obliged – not by law but by gratitude and our Christian faith – to use them in accordance with God's plan.

An excerpt from *Catholic Stewardship – Sharing God's Gifts* by Colleen Smith. Used with permission by Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

ADULT FORMATION NEWS From the desk of Drew Desmarais

ADULT E-MAIL BULLETIN

This month, I will be putting together a bulletin for adults sent out periodically through e-mail. This bulletin will consist of reviews of current books, articles will include reminders about upcoming adult formation opportunities in the parish and in the neighboring Webster-Penfield Parishes. The purpose of the bulletin is to present up to date information quickly and direct to you through e-mail. In order for me to send you this information, I will need your e-mail address. You can send your address to me at ddesmarais@dor.org

SCRIPTURE STUDY

On Tuesday, December 3 at 7:15pm in Room 3, the Scripture Study Group will meet. They will be exploring and decoding the book of Revelation. Study books are provided by the Little Rock series. Everyone is welcome anytime. The group meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Re & Tom Scott

Our parish is growing . . .

# of registered families as of 1/1/2002	2031
# of new families through 10/31/02	117
# of new families registered in November	11
# of families removed from parish list YTD	(77)
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# of registered families as of 9/30/02	2082

ST. BERNARD'S SCHOLA

The next session will be at St. Paul's on **Thursday, December 5 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** The topic will be: **"Celebrating Life's Profound Moments: The Sacraments in our Lives."** Join us for this update on sacramental theology!

Welcome to all of our new families!

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~ PLEASE NOTE ~

**An Interpreter for the hearing impaired will be provided at the 10:30 am Christmas Mass.
Pass the word!**

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~ Thank You ~

Dear Friends at St. Rita,

Thank you very much for your \$775.00 gift to the St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center as part of your Fiesta Tithing. St. Rita's faithful support of the Center is so important to us. We are working hard now to take up the slack from County budget problems ~ seeing people who are being cut off from other agencies. You are helping the very neediest with your gift.

Gratefully, Sr. Chris Wagner, SSJ

~ IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US! ~ CATHOLIC & CHRISTIAN

Has anyone ever asked you, "Are you Catholic or Christian?" **Fr. Joe Catanise** will be teaching a 10-week course entitled *Catholic AND Christian*. Cost of the text is \$12. To Register please call the parish office at 671-1100 and leave your name. Come and discover what our church believes and teaches. **Our next class meets on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00pm in Room 1** and will continue on Wednesday nights.

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HELP! Due to a variety of circumstances, the **Children's Liturgy Of the Word** program is in desperate need of additional catechists. Otherwise we will not be able to provide this program every weekend. If you can help or would like more information please contact Ellen Smith at 671-9637 or Teri Bucks at 265-0984.

SACRAMENT NEWS

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETINGS

On **Wednesday, December 4** and **Thursday, December 5**, there will be parent meetings for the start of the Confirmation Program at 7:30pm in Church. The December 4 meeting is designed for parents who are going through this process with their child for the first time. The December 5 meeting is geared to the parents who are repeating this sacrament with a second child. You only need to attend one meeting. If this is your third child going through the process, you can skip the meeting and pick up the material at the Religious Education Office starting Monday, December 9th.

Sacramental Registration is Underway!

Children who are seven years old are eligible for the Sacraments of **First Eucharist and Confirmation**. Forms are available in the back of church, Parish Office and Religious Education Office. Sacramental preparation is a parish-based process, which means it does not take place in the Catholic School or the Religious Education Program. Once you register, you will receive a letter letting you know when the parent meeting takes place.

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PARISH OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

You will find an envelope marked "Needy Fund" in the packet of envelopes that was recently mailed. The Parish Outreach Committee in a variety of ways distributes donations made through these envelopes. Frequently, these funds are used to help parishioners who find themselves temporarily in need of food, gasoline, housing and other key necessities. Through your generosity, we have been able to support Parish Twinning with our sister parish in Tanzania who are working to add a roof to their newly built church and to the local migrant community as well as supporting the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's efforts to aid families impacted by the war in Afghanistan. These are just a few examples of where the money from the Needy Fund is directed.

Besides using the Needy Fund envelopes, there are other ways to make a donation to the Needy Fund. You can simply place your donation in the jars in the back of the church after Masses or specifically request that your donation is used towards the Needy Fund.

We thank you for your support in enabling our Parish to be sensitive to the needs of the poor.

RCIA – RITE OF ACCEPTANCE

The parish community celebrates the first step of initiation, **The Rite of Welcoming**, with 2 candidates at the 9:00 a.m. liturgy this weekend. James Allis and Joan Close become candidates for completion of their initiation process into the Catholic faith. Within the process of initiation, those who have already been baptized are called candidates. They come to the community to complete their initiation process with the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. **The Rite of Welcoming** acknowledges these adults already are part of the community due to the fact that they have already been marked with the seal of Baptism. We welcome Jim and Joan into our community and pray that the Spirit of the Lord will bless them abundantly with his peace and love.

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A PARISH ADVENT TRADITION

As we approach the beginning of Advent we celebrate with an annual tradition. Between Sunday, December 2 and Sunday, December 15 gifts for children and adults will be collected under the banner in the greeting area.

Please take an ornament from the banner, purchase a gift, wrap it and return it with the ornament tag attached to the gift - no bows please. Indicate on the ornament tag the contents of the package. Family involvement can be rewarding and satisfying and a learning experience for our children. Say a prayer each day during Advent for the person(s) who will be receiving your gift.

Sunday, December 15 is the last day to return your gifts to the greeting area. They will be sorted and delivered on Monday, December 16. Our Social Action Ministry Committee thanks you.

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COMPANIONS IN GRIEF

**Monday, December 16
at 7:30pm in Room 1**

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!

All who have lost a loved one through death are invited to attend. All are welcome! Any questions please call Sr. Judy at 671-1653.

**DOVE VOLUNTEER
~ THANK YOU ~**

All who help or have helped in the DOVE Volunteer Program are invited to a gathering:

When: Saturday, December 7 at 11:00am
Where: In Room 1

We appreciate all that you have done and will do as part of the parish Dove Program. Please come for a short get together so we can thank you in person. RSVP to Janice Caruso at 671-9296

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THE CATHOLIC YOUTH BIBLE

New American Bible Translation
(from St. Mary's Press)

"The *Catholic Youth Bible* makes a significant contribution to the scriptural literacy and faith formation of Catholic adolescents and young adults."

--His Eminence, Cardinal Roger Mahony,
Archbishop of Los Angeles

The Catholic Youth Bible is a WONDERFUL Bible for ANYONE!! The paperback copies are \$27.95, but we have copies available at the discounted price of \$20.00. If you are interested in ordering one of these Bibles, or if you would like to see the many wonderful features of this bible that is of value to youth AND adults, please call Eileen Hasso, Family Faith Coordinator, at 671-1100 x 13.

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CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY:

Catholic Gay & Lesbian Family Ministry is a support group for the parents of gay sons and lesbian daughters. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 12 from 7:00-9:00pm at St. Paul's Church, 783 Hard Road. Discussion of the American Catholic bishops' publication *Always Our Children* will continue. Copies of this publication will be available at the meeting. You may contact John & Mary Ann O'Brien at 671-6796.

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**ST. RITA'S 50th ANNIVERSARY
COOKBOOKS ON SALE**

Stop by the Parish Office and pick up your copy of our St. Rita's Cookbook filled with over 500 recipes from fellow parishioners. The hardcover books are **\$5.00 each** and make great Christmas gifts!

**YOUNG AT HEART ~
SENIOR GROUP**

We are welcoming both current members and others to join us on **Tuesday, December 10** for our Christmas Luncheon at the Catering Works Café at 12:00pm. The lunch choices are Chicken Florentine or Roast Beef. Current members cost is \$8.00 and Non-members \$11.00 All seniors are welcome. Your choice for lunch and your payment must be made at the parish office by Thursday, December 5

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"In Jest . . . "

In years gone by, the court jester was an important member of the king's household. By means of quips, he kept the king in good humor, and entertained the members of the royal household. One of the best retorts any court jester gave may be this one:

A sovereign was a dyspeptic dictator who had the ancient "power of life and death" over all his subjects, and it was supposed to be legally impossible for the king to change any sentence he set on a subject. Becoming irritated by his court jester, the king, in a sudden rage of wrath, sentenced the court jester to death. Then, realizing too late his harsh decree, the king said to him, "In consideration of your faithful services, I will permit you to select the manner in which you prefer to die."

The court jester unhesitatingly answered, "I select to die of old age."

- Anonymous

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FAMILY FAITH NEWS

The November-December issue of the **Family Faith Newsletter** is now available in Church. Please pick up a copy to take home with you to read and enjoy for the holidays!

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2002-2003 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS are now available and are valid now through November 2003. They are filled with terrific discounts on all types of restaurants (formal & informal) and entertainment. Profits benefit the House of Mercy. The cost per book is \$22.00. If you are interested please call Ed and Diane Langen at 217-9386. They will deliver if needed. These make great Christmas gifts!

DECEMBER 1, 2002

St. Rita Advent Season 2002

"Christ is Our Peace"

FAMILY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 2:00 until 4:00 pm

Families are invited to come to Church to spend some time with the Lord in quiet anticipation. Fr. Joe will lead us in a Prayer Service involving the whole family to begin Adoration.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 at 4:00 pm

This festive service led by the Adult Choir, Contemporary Choir, VOCE Ensemble and Children's Choir will sing carols of the season, interspersed with short scripture readings telling the story in word and music of Advent, culminating with the birth of our Lord. All are invited, and a reception will follow.

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE ~ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 at 7:30 pm

As we "Wait for the Lord", come and experience this quiet, peaceful, prayer service in church filled with only candlelight in the spirit of Taize, France. Take this opportunity to stop and pray.

PREPARE . . . SPIRITUALLY

Hopefully, each family has received our advent booklet. Our **Little Blue Book** helps us to prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ. It includes a scriptural passage and thought or meditation for each day of Advent. This format is an example of a tradition of prayer called *Lectio Divina* - sacred reading. This involves reading a short Scripture passage and simply letting God speak to us through the words.

The **Little Blue Book** also suggests another form of prayer. It suggests reading a short passage of Scripture and then placing ourselves in one of the characters included in that particular verse or verses. For example, we might place ourselves in the sandals of the shepherds and imagine their thoughts and feelings upon seeing the baby Jesus lying in the manger.

St. Rita's has also scheduled some opportunities, which will help us prepare spiritually for the coming of Jesus who is our peace. *Lessons and Carols* tells the story in word and music of Advent, culminating with the birth of our Lord. *Taize Prayer Service* is a candlelit evening of quiet, meditative prayer with inspirational music. This is most definitely a quiet time with the Lord, which inspires and instills peace in the heart. There are also many opportunities for *Eucharistic Adoration*. We can then seek peace for our soul at the *Penance Services* scheduled later in Advent.

May we all seek peace on our spiritual journey this Advent through our Scriptural readings and the Church sponsored programs.

The Liturgy Committee

"Be Still and Know that I am God"! Eucharistic Adoration

These days more than ever, we need to learn how to quiet our hearts and racing minds and let God be God for us. Besides the normal stresses that come to us at the holiday season, we have concerns of the economy, job layoffs, the state of the world, plus our personal concerns for our loved ones. Sometimes we can feel very burdened but Jesus has said to us, "Come to me all you who labor and are heavily burdened and I will refresh you." As a parish we are setting aside some special opportunities to come before Our Lord in peace and quiet this Advent.

December 1 from 2:00-4:00pm we will have a special prayer service for families to help them teach the children about Eucharistic Adoration. All ages are most welcome to this time of Adoration for whatever time you can spend.

10:00am-6:00pm each Friday of Advent We need people who will commit to each of the hours so the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone. If we could get four or five for each hour this would allow for some flexibility. Please call Pat Kaufman at 671-5373 if you can commit to this ministry.

ADULT FORMATION NEWS
from the desk of Drew Desmarais

KEEPING THE FAITH

A series in interviews with local church leaders and theologians

**The following interview is Part 2 with Tom Driscoll
the new Director of Community Education for the Diocese of Rochester**

Drew: Tom, how is Schola different than St. Bernard's On The Road?

Tom: The instructors have to be able to teach all the course offerings and be able to answer any question that comes up. In addition, Schola will be offered in the prisons. There is a huge population of Catholics in the prison system and we want to be able to do outreach to them. We currently have 32 instructors for the program and the fee charged to the parishes will pay for the instructors, overhead and the prison outreach.

Drew: The way we do parish education has focused on children for so long and only since 1993 have we begun to address the needs of our adult population. What model can we use to promote more adult learning?

Tom: The model for collaboration is a great start in this effort. The clustering of parishes and the sharing of Mass times is massive education as to how the future Church will operate. The efforts in collaborative adult education, marriage preparation and RCIA are all examples of how this model works well today.

Tom: There are other areas where adult education takes place and will further expand in the future as the priest shortage grows more severe. At St. Louis in Pittsford, lay people were asked to get involved in training to facilitate the annulment process in the parish. Father didn't need to do the paperwork so lay people became involved in learning about canon law and were able to complete this process for people. With Stephen Ministry, staff people needed to give up their territory and share the pastoral work with the lay people in the pews.

Drew: This outlook for parish ministry is challenging for ministers as well as the lay people in the parish. How does this renewed emphasis on education affect staff people?

Tom: Every staff person should have an individual plan for their professional development. The responsibility for coordinating continuing education has been placed with St. Bernard's and we have put together a program this year to address these needs for all ministers.

Drew: What is your vision for adult education in the Diocese of Rochester in the next ten years?

Tom: There should be in place a regular regime of adult learning taking place in each parish every year. In addition, we have to come up with ways to motivate people to reflect on their faith. We need to give them tools to help them in the critical moments of their lives. Real life is the center of these moments, not the parish. Wegmans, the soccer field are places where people talk to each other and learn. People are stressed for time and we need to do outreach to them within the scope of their time, not ours. Just as adults face expectations of continued learning in the workplace, we need to challenge them to become committed to adult faith learning.

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ADULT E-MAIL BULLETIN

This month, I will be putting together a bulletin for adults sent out periodically through e-mail. This bulletin will consist of reviews of current books, articles will include reminders about upcoming adult formation opportunities in the parish and in the neighboring Webster-Penfield Parishes. The purpose of the bulletin is to present up to date information quickly and direct to you through e-mail. In order for me to send you this information, I will need your e-mail address. You can send your address to me at d-desmarais@dor.org