

**EUCHARIST
INTENTIONS**

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2002

9:15AM JAMES HANLEY – The St. Rita Society

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2002

7:00AM MARTHA BLUM – Family
9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2002

7:00AM CATHERINE WALZ – Leon Bartle
9:15AM JEAN JANIAK –
Son, Joe and Patty Janiak

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2002

7:00AM DANIEL SCHWEHM –
David & Joanne Schwehm
9:15AM THOMAS FERLAND – Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2002

7:00AM ANNA WEISS – Joe & Millie Filippone
9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

**Eucharistic Adoration following
9:15am Morning Prayer until 6:00pm**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2002

5:00PM JOSEPH HOHMAN – Wife

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2002

7:30AM ANTHONY ALVITO –
Rose Pepitone & Family
9:00AM MARY ELLEN SAVERINO &
MARGARET CHITTENDEN –
Frank & Family
10:30AM EDWARD MALIBORSKI – Wife

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**This week the Tabernacle Light will burn in
loving memory of Don Gallo**

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A VOCATION VIEW ~ John the Baptist is sent by God to prepare the way for His Son. In our present time God sends priests, deacons and religious to prepare us to receive His Son. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, please call Pat Finnerty, Director of Vocation Awareness at 328-3228 ext. 229 or Fr. Bill Donnelly, Rector at Becket Hall at 461-2890.

**Advent
Prepare . . . Practically**

How can we ever find peace in this hectic holiday season? There are cards to write, dinners to plan, gifts to buy, and houses to decorate. There is so much to do that we forget that we are preparing for much more than a holiday season. Instead, we are preparing for Christmas ~ the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The **Little Blue Book** is intended to help us remember why we are celebrating. If we have reasonable expectations, we might not be lost in the rush of the season. One reasonable expectation is to use the booklet for spiritual reflection. The reflections in the book are written to take only six minutes of your day. A tiny, but important slice of life that will bring you the peace found in prayer with God.

The booklet also offers some simple advice. **Lighten Up!** This Christmas does not have to be bigger and better than last year. We are not in competition with anyone, even ourselves. We can strive, instead, to enjoy Advent by simplifying and changing our emphasis from the commercial to the spiritual.

One recommendation that is very helpful is to limit the number of gifts we buy. After all, we are celebrating Jesus' birthday. He only received three gifts. Perhaps we should strive for the same number of gifts to our close family members as a symbol of the gifts given to the Christ child.

May we all seek more peace in our practical journey this Advent.

PLANS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 8, 2002

SUNDAY

8:00-11:00AM BREAKFAST CLUB - Gym
 10:30 AM Babysitting during 10:30 Mass - Rm 4
4:00PM LESSONS & CAROLS – Church
 7:30PM BINGO at the K of C – Team 4
 7:30PM Fiesta Planning Meeting – Rm 1

MONDAY

4:30-5:30PM Religious Education Classes
 6:30-7:30PM Religious Education Classes
 7:00PM Catholic Awakenings – Rm 1
 7:00PM Parish Twinning – Church Library

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
 6:30PM Stewardship Committee – Rm 3
 7:00PM Youth Christmas Party – Gym
 7:00PM Catholic & Christian – Rm 1
 7:30PM Social Action Ministry – Parish Office

WEDNESDAY

7:30PM TAIZE ADVENT PRAYER – Church
 8:30PM Men’s Basketball – Gym

THURSDAY

1:00PM School Christmas Play – Gym
 7:00PM Contemporary Choir Rehearsal – Church
 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 7:30PM Charismatic Prayer Group at St. Paul’s

FRIDAY

10:00AM-6:00PM Eucharistic Adoration-Church
 10:00AM School Christmas Play – Gym
 2:00PM Jesus Rosary – Church
 7:00PM School Christmas Play – Gym

SATURDAY

10:00-10:45AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 12:30PM Christmas Liturgy Rehearsal – Church

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PARISH SUPPORT		
Last Week	Weekly Goal	Variance
\$12,603	\$12,654	- \$51
Year to Date	Year to Date Goal	Variance
\$258,324	\$265,793	- \$7,469
(The Church’s fiscal year begins 7/1/02)		
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!		

We welcome the newest member of our parish family who was baptized this weekend:

Benjamin Matthew Boothby

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BIBLE READINGS:

- 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
- 9 Mon **Immaculate Conception of Mary** Gn 3:9-15,20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6,11-12 Lk 1:26-38
- 10 Tue Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3,10-13 Mt 18:12-14
- 11 Wed **St. Damasus I** Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4,8-10 Mt 11:28-30
- 12 Thu **Our Lady of Guadalupe** Zec 2:14-17 Jdt 13:18bcde,19 Lk 1;26-38
- 13 Fri **St. Lucy** Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4,6 Mt 11:16-19
- 14 Sat **St. John of the Cross** Sir 48:1-4,9-11 Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19 Mt 17:10-13
- 15 Sun **Third Sunday of Advent** Is 61:1-2a,10-11 Lk 1:46-50,53-54 1 Thes 5;16-24 Jn 1:6-8,19-28

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ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED NEXT WEEKEND ~ DECEMBER 14 & 15

Saturday, 5:00pm:

Josh Formella (c), Johnathan Formella (w), Michael Wynne (b), Michael Weatherspoon (o),

Sunday, 7:30am:

James Samuelson (c), Megan Samuelson (b) Laura Casper (w)

Sunday, 9:00am:

Susie Loeb (c), Emily Redman (w), Lauren Tatanus (b), Marisa Vargas (o)

Sunday, 10:30am:

Bridget Rank (c), Dan Marchioli (w), Adam Rall (b), Jamie Farris (o)

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

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SACRISTAN:

Week of December 8 Mary Ann Beikirch

LINENS:

Week of December 15 Rosemary Novick

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MANY THANKS ~ Along with the many bags of food for the needy \$232.25 was collected in the baskets last weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

Stepping Stones to Stewardship

When adults practice Christian stewardship, they inspire it ~ both among other adults and young people. Children, we know, learn what they live. Make authentic Christian stewardship the heart of your family life and you will add heart to your family life. Guaranteed.

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

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

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THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

COMMUNAL CELEBRATIONS OF RECONCILIATION

December 18, Wednesday 7:30 pm
December 21, Saturday 9:30 am

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES For the Celebration of Reconciliation

Every Saturday in Advent 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Monday, December 16 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Monday, December 16 7:30 – 8:30 pm

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“CATHOLIC AWAKENINGS”

Catholic Awakenings pursues a formal series of programs guided by Loyola Press to sort out our Catholic experiences with what has come about through Vatican II.

**Monday, December 9
at 7:00pm in Room 1**

Join Deacon Stan for the “Awakenings” series. It will continue to be held on the 2nd Monday of each month and will feature Catholic Basics related to Sacramental Theology.

St. Rita School children will present their Christmas play

“Miracle on Bethlehem St. & Three Wee Kings”

**Thursday, December 12 at 1:00pm
and
Friday, December 13 at 10:00am and 7:00pm**

in the Parish Center Gym

All are welcome to come to any of the performances. This is our joyful gift in thanksgiving for all the St. Rita parishioners who support our school so faithfully.

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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.

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Please do not remove the missalettes or Music Issues from the pews. Thank you .

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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.

COMPANIONS IN GRIEF
(Please note the date change)

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

Topic: Prayer and Share before the Holidays.
Come for a special Holiday Candlelight Service

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.

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FIESTA 2003 PLANNING NIGHT!!
WE NEED YOU!

It's never too early to start planning for our big event of the year. **The 2003 Fiesta will be held Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7.** Once again The Skycoasters in concert on Saturday night will headline the fun. If you are interested in becoming part of the smartest, handsomest, fun-lovingest, (not to mention modest) crew in all of this Diocese then be sure to show up on **Sunday, December 8 at 7:30pm in Room 1.** This is your chance to be part of St. Rita's history! We need you to come and share your ideas to make the Fiesta 2003 a memorable event for all. For more information call Tom at 671-0428 or Dave at 671-2383.

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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:
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Van Horne

Next Week's Special: Sausage bake with warm buttered toast and free coffee for a donation of \$3.00.

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

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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 being sold at a discounted rate of **\$5.00 each.** **These make great Christmas gifts!**

NEXT WEEKEND IS CYO SUNDAY
and
HOLIDAY BAKED FOOD SALE

There will be a baked food sale in the greeting area after all Masses next weekend December 14 & 15. Proceeds will benefit our parish Athletic Association. **All players and coaches are asked to wear their uniforms to whichever Mass they plan on attending!** All CYO participants are asked to bring their baked food donations to the greeting area on Saturday the 14th after 4:00pm or with them to Church that weekend.

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ST RITA SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

St. Rita Society members are invited to their Annual Christmas Party to be held:

Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00pm
in the Parish Center Gym

Entertainment will include the St. Rita 5th & 6th Grade Children's Choir, Mello Wives and Rochester Saenger Choir. Members are asked to bring your favorite plate of cookies or dessert OR an appetizer (cheese & crackers, chips & dip) to share with all.

Special Project: Please bring with you a personal care product gift (skin care, toothpaste, deodorant, hair care) for Mount Carmel Parish.

We hope you can join us for a festive evening filled with wonderful Christmas music!

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PARISH PASTA DINNER UPDATE!

Thanks to all who helped make St. Rita Parish Pasta Dinner a success. Prince Pasta, Francesco Rinaldi and DiPaolo's Bakery donated the food. Thanks also to Jessie Guido and Pasta Villa for their help. Over \$600 was raised for our parish. We had a fun time, the kids were great servers and we ate well. Thanks to all who came and shared in the community spirit.

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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.

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

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DAY OF COMFORT AND HOPE

Sr. Carole Proia, SSJ will lead this Day of Prayer (focusing on Isaiah Chapter 40) at the Notre Dame Retreat House on Tuesday, December 17. Registration begins at 9:00am concluding with Mass at 2:00pm. Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch. If interested please call the Retreat House at 585-394-5700.

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Holy Trinity House of H.O.P.E. will be closed Christmas Day through Friday, January 3. *We will be open Christmas Eve Day (Tues., 24 Dec.) from 10 a.m. -- noon; we will re-open on Saturday 4 January from 10 a.m. – noon.* As always, if you know of someone in need of help, who's having a tough time making ends meet or feeding their family, have them call H.O.P.E. at **265-6694**. Our voice mail will be monitored for emergencies over the holidays, as it is at all times. If you wish to donate groceries, cleaning supplies, personal care items, baby supplies, good useable clothing, or furniture, call H.O.P.E. at 265-6694. We will return your call during our regular business hours. And, on behalf of the nearly 300 families from the Webster area that we've helped over the past year, thanks very much for your support and prayers.

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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!

Webster-Penfield Health Ministry
Holy Spirit ~ Holy Trinity ~ St. Paul ~ St. Rita

SAFE HOLIDAYS

Safety during this season is most important in helping us have happy holidays. Be sure to check the wiring for all lights and decorations before lighting them. Fragrant candles are a delight but be sure to keep them away from children. Don't leave them lit when you are not home, and place them well away from curtains, draperies, or any object, which might easily catch fire. Above all ~ don't drink and drive.

Make this a blessed season for yourself and your family.

Personal health note ~ since this is the flu season, remember to get your flu shot, wash your hands frequently and practice good hygiene.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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RETRouvaille PROGRAM

If you think your marriage has become unloving and uncaring, or if your relationship has grown cold and distant; if you are thinking of separation or divorce, or if you are already separated or divorced but want to try again- then the Retrouvaille program may help you. Retrouvaille is designed to provide help and support for married couples who are undergoing difficulties in their relationship. It is a three-month program, which includes a weekend experience and six Sunday afternoon sessions. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program but couples of all faiths are welcome. The next program in the Rochester diocese will begin the weekend of January 11-13, 2001. For registration or for further information, please call 586-1150 or 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are confidential.

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If you have a meeting or event you'd like included in the **January 2003 WPCC Calendar**, please submit it to Ted Bertot, WPCC Coordinator, by e-mailing the information to Wpcc14580@cs.com, faxing announcements to 265-1627, or mailing them to WPCC, 1460 Ridge Road, Webster 14580. You may also call 288-8356 and leave a voice message on the answering machine along with your return phone number and the best time to call back. *The deadline for the January calendar is DECEMBER 13.*

Comfort Care Gifts: Is your family asking what you'd like for Christmas this year? Do you have everything you need and most of what you want? If this is your situation, perhaps you'd consider asking that a gift be given in your name to help the Webster Comfort Care Home get up and running.

Now that the house is built, it needs kitchen utensils, sheets, blankets, all the things you have in your home.

To help you know what's needed, the home is registered at Target in its wedding registry. The bride's first name is "Webster", her last name is "Comfort Care", the groom's name is the same, and the wedding date is January 1, 2003!

Please ask for a gift receipt to facilitate exchanges if necessary.

Gifts can be delivered at the Home (700 Holt Rd.) in mid-January, or call 872-5290 to arrange pick-up. Please be sure to include the name and address of both the giver and the person in whose honor it's given so they can be thanked. Money is also a welcome gift for those things that can't be purchased at Target. Checks can be made payable to: Webster Comfort Care, Inc. and mailed to 700 Holt Rd., Webster. Our thanks to you for considering this.

Please call Dave or Kathy Whitlock at 265-9849 with any questions.

DECEMBER 8, 2002

St. Rita Advent Opportunities

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.

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD"! EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

10:00am-6:00pm each Friday of Advent

Advent challenges us to be quiet, to settle down and sense the EMPTINESS in us that only God can fill. Adoration helps us by providing this special time for us to learn how to "Come Aside and Rest Awhile" when everything in our culture works against it.

Call Pat (671-5373) or Lise (671-6534) if you can commit to one hour for each of these three weeks. We are hoping to have four or five people for each hour in case something comes up and you are not available; you could call someone on your team.

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."

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CHRIST SAID, "FEED THE HUNGRY"

Our thanks to the many parishioners who gave food, time and energy for 18 families in need of help. The 'givers' are too numerous to list . . . God knows who your are. We thank God and you who make this endeavor possible and worthwhile.

PARISH TWINNING UPDATE

Many Thanks ~ to everyone who baked and donated breads for our Thanksgiving Bread Sale and to those who purchased breads of all kinds. **\$434.00 was collected for our Sister Parish in Mabughai, Tanzania, Africa.** This money will be sent to Fr. Damian to be used toward the roof for their new church.

If anyone is interested in joining the Parish Twinning Committee our next meeting will be on **Monday, December 9 at 7:00pm** in the Library in Church. All are welcome. For more information you can call Al Pecora at 787-9624.

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CATHOLIC YOUTH BIBLE

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

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.

Dear Friends,

"It's the most wonderful time of the year . . ." at least that's what one Christmas song says!

The challenge for all of us is to keep focused on the true wonder of the season, the wonder of a God who loves us so. He chooses to be the Emmanuel ~ God who lives with us.

May this Advent prepare us all to see the real Wonder and know the true joy of Christ who is our Peace.

Peace,

Fr. Chuck and all the Staff at
St. Rita Parish

Christmas Season Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ Tuesday, December 24, 2002

4:00pm ~ Two Family Masses (Church & Parish Center Gym)

6:00pm ~ Family Mass with Children's Choir

10:30pm ~ Mass during the Night (Carols begin at 10:00pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY ~ Wednesday, December 25, 2002

9:00am ~ Mass with Festive Carols

10:30am ~ Mass with Festive Carols

Children are invited to bring a new toy to Mass to be blessed.

Please Note ~ Both the 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass and the 10:30am Christmas Day Mass tend to be less crowded.

An Interpreter for the hearing impaired will be provided at the 10:30 am Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE ~ Anticipated Mass for the Holy Day

Tuesday, December 31, 2002 5:45 pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY ~ The Solemnity of the Blessed Mother

Wednesday, January 1, 2003 9:15 am

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

COMMUNAL CELEBRATIONS OF RECONCILIATION

December 18, Wednesday 7:30 pm

December 21, Saturday 9:30 am

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES

For the Celebration of Reconciliation

Every Saturday in Advent 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Monday, December 16 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Monday, December 16 7:30 – 8:30 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION will be held in Church each Friday during Advent following the 9:15 am Mass until 6:00 pm

St. Rita Church Advent Season 2002

"Christ is Our Peace"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 at 2:00 until 4:00pm

FAMILY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Families of all shapes and sizes are invited to come to Church to spend some time with the Lord in quiet anticipation.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 at 4:00 pm

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

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TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

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