

EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2003

9:15AM BILL BENWITZ – Dan & Miriam Kennelly

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2003

7:00AM IN HONOR OF AGNES SLACK'S 100th BIRTHDAY
- Bob & Barb Kleinhammer
9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2003

7:00AM JANE MILLER – Jim & Rita Beachner
9:15AM VITO CALZONE – Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Montrois

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003

7:00AM JOHN WEZELIS – Jim & Carol Steiger
9:15AM DOROTHY SCHALLER – Harold & Ruth Hickey

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2003

9:15AM PHYLLIS SORCI – Nina Barbetta

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2003

5:00PM NORMA MURPHY – St. Rita's "Young at Heart" Group

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2003

7:30AM WALTER BEISHEIM – Jean Beisheim
9:00AM JOHN HUDY – Phil & Verna Mendola
10:30AM JOSEPH PULICI – Wife

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This week the Tabernacle Light will burn in loving memory of Bill Benwitz



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Happy Birthday!

We honor a wonderful parishioner, **Agnes Slack**, who will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on December 2. Happy Birthday Agnes!

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All registered families were mailed a copy of our Advent and Christmas Schedule. Extra copies are available in the Narthex if you would like one.

Pastor's Perspective

Happy Advent ~ Happy New Year!

Today, the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new year in the life of our Church.

The pace of our lives, especially at this time of year can cause us to loose our focus, our sense of direction. While the world around us piles on obligations, our even longer "needs doing" lists, the Church calls us to wake up and turn to the Lord ~ who breaks into our world and changes everything . . . that is if we let Him in!

There is a story about a little five-year old boy who tiptoed into his parents' bedroom one Sunday morning, eager for them to get up. Thinking of a way to wake them, he carefully opened the curtains to let in the bright sunlight. Irritated by this, his dad yells, "Timmy, why are you coming to bother us?" With tears running down his cheeks, Timmy whispered, "I didn't come to other you. I came to wake you up."

Our readings have a similar message on this First Sunday of Advent. God does not come to bother us, but rather to wake us up, to propose a stance, to deal with the chaos in which we live – the distress among nations, the burdens that weigh us down, and the fluster of these pre-Christmas days. If we are Bethlehem-bound, let us stand erect and hold our heads high. Let the sun of justice shine on us with healing rays.

*Winter's Wisdom
by Sr. Joann Heinritz, CSJ*

Happy Advent,

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CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 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.

PLANS FOR THE WEEK NOVEMBER 30, 2003

SUNDAY

8:30-11:00AM Breakfast Club – Gym
 10:30AM Babysitting during 10:30 Mass - Rm 4
 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
 7:30PM Adult Faith Presentation – Rm 1

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 Partners In Faith – Rm 1
 7:00PM Sr. High Youth Group – Barn
 7:15PM Scripture Study Group – Rm 3

WEDNESDAY

7:00PM Stephen Ministry – Rm 1
 7:30PM Lite Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 7:30PM Prayer Group at St. John Fisher
 8:30-10:00PM Men's Basketball – Gym

THURSDAY

7:00PM Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 7:00PM Contemporary Choir Rehearsal – Church

FRIDAY

2:00PM Jesus Rosary – Church

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<u>PARISH SUPPORT</u>		
Last Week	Weekly Goal	Variance
\$13,079	\$13,160	- \$81
Year to Date	Year to Date Goal	Variance
\$295,031	\$289,520	+ \$5,511
(Our fiscal year is 7/1/03 - 6/30/04)		
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!		

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SACRISTAN:

Week of November 30 Miriam & Dan Kennelly

LINENS:

Week of December 7 Jean Fauth

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

***Shaughnessy Clare Flaherty
 Sean Patrick Buckley***

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BIBLE READINGS:

- 30 Sun **First Sunday of Advent** Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 Lk 21:25-28,34-36
- 1 Mon Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11
- 2 Tue Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 Lk 10:21-24
- 3 Wed **St. Francis Xavier** Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37
- 4 Thu Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27 Mt 7:21,24-27
- 5 Fri Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1,4,13-14 Mt 9:27-31
- 6 Sat **St. Nicholas** Is 30:19-21,23-26 Ps 147:1-6 Mt 9:35-10:1,5,6-8
- 7 Sun **Second Sunday of Advent** Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-6 Phil 1:4-6,8-11 Lk 3:1-6

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**ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED
 NEXT WEEKEND ~ December 6 & 7**

Saturday, 5:00pm:

Marc Cataldi, Mark Burns, Brian Burns

Sunday, 7:30am:

Kyle Chapman, Kayla Chapman, Lauren Kessler

Sunday, 9:00am:

Stacy King, Charlie DeGaugh, Brad Chiesa

Sunday, 10:30am:

Kevin Connell, Tim Bruno, David Savella

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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 free breakfast for two.

This week's winner: Tom & Elaine Nespeca

Next Week's Special: Cinnamon Raisin French Toast with your choice of bacon or sausage and a bottomless cup of coffee for a donation of \$3.00.

Stepping Stones to Stewardship

The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. *2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

**CAREGIVERS
SUPPORT GROUP**

will meet on

**Monday, December 1
at 7:30pm in Room 3**

This gathering is for anyone who is presently caring for a loved one at home, in the hospital or nursing home. More people are finding themselves taking care of sick relatives . . . a little time out will help you! Come for support, prayer and reassurance. If you have questions call Sr. Judy at 671-1653.

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On the tables in the Narthex are **Scripture Reading Booklets** for our church year beginning November 30. They are called "A Light for My Path". Help yourself to a booklet.

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**YOUNG AT HEART ~ SENIOR GROUP
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Tuesday, December 9
at 12:00 Noon
at Waldron's Restaurant**

Join us for a wonderful Christmas gathering. Tickets are available at the parish office. Your choice of beef, chicken or pasta (salad, dessert and beverage are included. \$11.00 per person. Reservation deadline is December 3. Any questions call the office at 671-1100.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

On **Monday evening, December 1 at 7:30pm** in Room 1, Drew will be hosting part VI in a series on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The focus of this series will be on section one of the Catechism, "Divine Revelation." We will examine the text and then address prepared questions, followed by discussion from the group. Any questions, call Drew at 671-1100, ext 15.

ADULT FAITH 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 and 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 directly 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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ATTENTION ~ BELEAGUERED PARENTS!
(Rescheduled due to Windy Weather!)

Join Fr. Joe Catanise and Eileen Hasso for a round-table discussion on:

- ❖ What are we called to do as Catholic Christian parents?
- ❖ How can we do what we need to do and what we are called to do?
- ❖ How can we help each other?
- ❖ How can our church support us in this challenge?

**Please join us on Thursday December 10
7:00pm in Parish Center Room 1**

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St. Rita's has a special blessing for expectant parents held on the first Sunday of each month. Our next Expectant Parent Blessing will take place during all of the Masses the weekend of December 6 & 7.

COMPANIONS IN GRIEF
Will gather on

Wednesday, December 10
7:30pm in Room 3

All who have experienced the loss of a loved one through death are invited to attend. All are welcome. For more information please call Sr. Judy at 671-1653.

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A PARISH ADVENT TRADITION

As we approach the beginning of Advent ~ A time of waiting and reflection upon the meaning of the Birth of Jesus, we again celebrate with an annual tradition.

Between Sunday, November 30 and Sunday, December 14, gifts for children and adults will be collected under the banner in the greeting area of church.

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 14 is the last day to return your gifts to the greeting area. They will be sorted and delivered on Monday, December 15. Gifts this year will be distributed to: The House of Mercy, Peter Castle Resource Center, Williamson Come-Unity Center, Dimitri House, Mount Carmel Church, Problem Pregnancy Center, St. Martin's Place, Rochester Psychiatric Center and Birthright of Rochester.

Our Social Action Ministry Committee thanks you in advance for your generous support of this project.

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MITTEN SUNDAY!
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

During the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:00am and 10:30 am Masses all children are invited to bring mittens to be given to the needy whether they attend Children's Liturgy or not. Baskets will be put in Church to collect the mittens at all Masses during the weekend.

SINGLE AND SINGLE AGAIN
SAVE THE DATE

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

When: Wednesday, December 31
from 9:00pm until ?

Where: Empire Bowling Lanes

Food, Fun and Friends! More details to follow.

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SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP

Scripture Study will take place this Tuesday, December 2 at 7:15pm in Room 3. We will be exploring and decoding the Book of Revelation. Study books are provided by the Little Rock Series. Everyone is welcome anytime. We meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:15pm in Room 3.

Re and Tom Scott

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WANTED:
YOUR FIESTA REMEMBRANCES!

Our St. Rita Fiesta will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in June 2004. We would like to collect stories and photos of the first 49 fiestas for a special presentation next summer. If you have stories or photos to share please contact Rick Meier (787-9145) or Gary and Virginia Nicastro, (872-5648). Photos will be cataloged and returned.

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FOOD COLLECTION
NEXT WEEKEND

On the first Sunday of each month, parishioners are asked to bring in food for the needy in our area. Food may be left in the greeting area of Church. Please remember to bring your nonperishable foods to church with you next weekend. Your Social Action Ministry Committee thanks you for your stewardship!

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Will Power ~ Through your Will or Living Trust, you have the power to help Saint Rita Church to do God's work. As you prepare or update your Will or Living Trust, please consider the good works and programs of our faith community that you would like to continue to help when your life on earth ends.

"Lord, Make Us Turn To You"

Dear Friends,

As we begin the Advent season we are often overcome with a mix of feelings . . . something of childlike joy . . . and something of apprehension at all that "needs to be done" in the "30 shopping days left until Christmas!"

Our Advent theme invites us to turn to the Lord – who longs to be with us . . . the word made flesh . . . the Incarnate Son of God. It is a call to put on the brakes, slow down and welcome the Lord of Peace . . . only when we can learn to be still and wait for him, can we experience the deepest Joy of this Season.

Happy Advent,
Fr. Chuck and the Staff at St. Rita Parish

Please Note ~ This year we are including a special Christmas contribution envelope for those who do not receive, or regularly use, parish envelopes. Please know that the stewardship of treasure is very important to the life of our parish, and that your gift will be much appreciated. Please be generous this Christmas season. Thank you and God bless.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

COMMUNAL CELEBRATIONS OF RECONCILIATION

December 17, Wednesday 7:30 pm

December 20, Saturday 9:30 am

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES

For the Celebration of Reconciliation

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

St. Rita Church Advent Season 2003

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 at 4:00 pm

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

This festive service tells the story in word and music of Advent, culminating with the birth of our Lord.

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY - HOLY DAY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 ~ MASSES AT 9:15am and 5:45pm**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 at 10:30 am

(Immediately following the 9:30am Reconciliation Service)

"NO ROOM"

The youth of our parish will provide you the opportunity to meet Issachar, the innkeeper who said he had no room for Mary and Joseph. Do not be too busy... do not say, "I have no room".... come hear this amazing story presented by our youth!

Christmas Season Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ Wednesday, December 24, 2003

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 ~ Thursday, December 25, 2003

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.
Interpreter for the hearing impaired at the 9:00am Mass**

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

**NEW YEAR'S EVE ~ Anticipated Mass for the Holy Day
Wednesday, December 31, 2003 5:45 pm**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY ~ The Solemnity of the Blessed Mother
Thursday, January 1, 2004 9:15 am**