

EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2003

9:15AM DANIEL SCHWEHM –
David & Joanne Schwehm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2003

7:00AM JOHN RICHARD HUDY –
William & Linda Agnello
9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2003 **CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:00PM (Church) FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. RITA'S
4:00PM (Gym) RAYMOND CATANISE – Family
6:00PM JOSEPHINE DE GEORGE – Family
10:30PM CELEBRANT'S INTENTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2003 **CHRISTMAS DAY**

9:00AM JOHN SLACK – Family
10:30AM JIM HANLEY – Eleanor & Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2003

No Mass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2003

5:00PM LEON OLAS – By Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2003

7:30AM STANLEY POSLUSNY –
Wife and Children
9:00AM ARMAND BALDASSARE –
Marge & Family
10:30AM ST. RITA SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS –
Sr. Katherine Ann and Faculty

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This week the Tabernacle Light will burn in loving memory of the deceased members of the Thomas and DeVogelaere families.

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The Parish Offices Holiday hours will be:

Wednesday, December 24 9:00-12:00
Thursday, December 25 Closed
Friday, December 26 Closed

CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING

Creator God,

We gather around this Christmas tree honoring and thanking you for it's nurturing branches.

It sheltered forest creatures. May this tree now shelter our dreams and hopes and lead us to nurture all who feel lost and alone.

Bless the strength and beauty of this tree. May we be forever awed by your gift of trees and the wonder of all nature.

May we always reverence our world and preserve it for future children.

Bless this tree and may it be for us a greening of joyous hope for all that Christmas means.

May we delight in the bright lights and sparkling ornaments and revel in the stories that will dance upon the air about them.

God of all that was and is and will be, circle round this tree and all here gathered.

Amen

(Rosheen Glennon, CSJ)

PLANS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 21, 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 2

WEDNESDAY CHRISTMAS EVE

See Mass Schedule

THURSDAY CHRISTMAS DAY

See Mass Schedule

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PARISH SUPPORT		
Last Week	Weekly Goal	Variance
\$12,168	\$13,160	- \$ 992
Year to Date	Year to Date Goal	Variance
\$334,990	\$329,000	+ \$5,990
(Our fiscal year is 7/1/03 - 6/30/04)		
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!		

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SACRISTAN:

Week of December 21 Agnes Kopin

LINENS:

Week of December 28 Shirli Mintz

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Thank You . . .

The Social Action Ministry Committee extends its sincere "Thank You" and appreciation for all who participated in another Christmas giving season. That includes those who:

- cut out and labeled the paper ornaments
- selected and purchased the gifts
- provided custodial assistance
- sorted and packed the gifts
- made the delivery of the gifts to our charities
- and those who assisted in any way

Through your generosity we were able to send over 500 gifts to those who are less fortunate in our area.

Gifts this year were 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.

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

Paul Stephen Stracke

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BIBLE READINGS:

- 21 Sun **Fourth Sunday of Advent** Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45
- 22 Mon 1 Sm 1:24-28 1 Sm 2:1,4-8 Lk 1:46-56
- 23 Tue Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14 Lk 1:57-66
- 24 Wed 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Ps 89:2-5,27,29 Lk 1:67-79
- 25 Thu **Christmas** Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3,11-13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14
- 26 Fri **St. Stephen** Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 Ps 31:3-4,6-8,17,21 Mt 10:17-22
- 27 Sat **St. John the Evangelist** 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12 Jn 20:1a,2-8
- 28 Sun **Holy Family Sunday** Sir 3:2-7,12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:41-52

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**ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED
 NEXT WEEKEND ~ December 27 & 28**

Saturday, 5:00pm:

Josh & Johnathan Formella, Michael Wynne

Sunday, 7:30am:

Susie Loeb, Taylor Smith, Kathrena Smith

Sunday, 9:00am:

Jeff Tatanus, Lauren Tatanus, Brian Chmiel

Sunday, 10:30am:

Eric Rall, Ryan Rall, Adam Rall

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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: Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Funk

Please Note there will be no Breakfast Club for the next two weekends due to the Holiday.

Please join us again on January 11, 2004

Stepping Stones to Stewardship

Lord God, you alone are the source of every good gift, of the vast array of our universe, and the mystery of each human life. We praise You and we thank You for Your great power and Your tender, faithful love. Everything we are and everything we have is Your gift, and after having created us You have given us into the keeping of Your Son, Jesus.

Fill our minds with His truth and our hearts with His love, that in His Spirit we may be bonded together into a faith community of faith, a parish family, and a caring people. In the name and Spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent and our material gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus. Amen.

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FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Our **Parish Health Ministry Committee** will be offering free Blood Pressure Screenings after all Masses next weekend in Room 1.

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CLOTHING DRIVE – Rain or Shine!

Wanted: clothes, shoes, belts, purses, linens, blankets, and drapes. (Please no rags or fabric scraps). If possible, please put clothing into plastic bags. The St. Pauly Mission delivers to the needy here in the U.S. and 3rd World Countries.

HEGEDORNS PARKING LOT
(Ridge Rd. and Hard Rd.)

December 27, 2003 from 9:00am to 1:00pm

Your donation is tax deductible.

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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!

ST. RITA SCHOOL ALUMNI INFORMATION

As we enter into the holiday time of year when we may visit more with family members, please encourage St. Rita Alumni to submit their updated demographic information on the Alumni Update form posted on the St. Rita School website. Feel free to update your siblings' information for them! The new website address is: <http://www.saintrita.org/school/Alumni.html>. You may also send the information (name, maiden name if applicable, class year, address, phone number, email address) to: St. Rita Alumni Update, 1008 Maple Drive, Webster, NY 14580.

Updating alumni information is an ongoing process. If you or any family member is an alumnus, please consider becoming a class ambassador. Finding and maintaining class names and addresses are tasks that can be done on your own time. We'll provide the lists – you provide the time! The Class of 1973 recently held its 30th reunion. We were able to provide some updated names and addresses, and a few class members took the list and did a remarkable job tracking down the majority of their class, which we have now added to our database. We would love for others to do the same, since St. Rita School will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2006, and updated information is important. If you would like to help find classmates' current addresses, please call Linda Barbeau at 671-0422.

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CIH COLLEGE STUDENTS TO VISIT ST. RITA'S

Five International college students will be participating in the CIH program at St. Rita's Parish during the Christmas Holidays. They are from Korea, Taiwan and Japan. In the spirit of our holiday celebration our Social Action Ministry Committee will be sponsoring a

**Parish International Dinner with the students
Tuesday, December 30 at 6:30pm in the gym**
with entertainment by our youth.

This dinner is open to the parish, families and friends. The dinner will be a "Dish to Pass" (American or International casserole). Our students will have the opportunity to fix their favorite recipe in their host's kitchens.

Reservations are requested so we can plan ahead. Call Ann Steinkamp at 671-3278 or Carol VanAtta at 671-7832 for information, a ride and your dinner reservations. Entertainment is being planned by our Youth Minister, Kim Yorgy.

Building Peace with Justice

The journey this year of 2003 has been a difficult one for people who love and build peace. The war in Iraq, the thousands killed there, the continuing escalation of violence in our own communities, the scarcity of employment. Yet we know we are a gifted people, we have been given the great gift of life. We have been loved into our being. How do we reconcile 2003 and with the great gift of Faith? A line from King Lear which says it all: "So we'll live, and pray, and sing, and tell old tales, and laugh at gilded butterflies.....and take upon us the mystery of things, as if we were God's spies.

Helen Luke, a spiritual writer, says that a spy is one who penetrates a hidden mystery, and a spy of God is one who sees at the heart of every manifestation of life the mystery that is God. What is the mystery of your life?

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"The Healing Power of Grief"

Wednesday, January 14, 2004 ~ 7:30 PM

Holy Spirit Church (Parish Center)

1355 Hatch Road (corner of Hatch & Plank Rds.)

Presenter: Sr. Julie LeVeque, SSJ

Grieving is an important spiritual practice we need to learn, if we are to live healthy and holy lives. This talk will offer practical suggestions for healing our losses. All who have lost loved ones are most welcome to join us.

DECEMBER 21, 2003

Partners In Faith Goal:	\$810,000
<u>Raised to Date:</u>	<u>\$874,698</u>
<u>Percent of Goal:</u>	<u>108%</u>
Number of Gifts:	596

Thank you to everyone at St. Rita Church who has participated in our ***Partners in Faith*** campaign. To date we have heard from 27% of our 2200 registered families. As there is no Thanksgiving Appeal this year, we are hoping that everyone will participate in some way in our Partners Effort. This will mean a great deal for the many ministries at St. Rita Parish. Yellow Pledge cards are available on the tables in the back of Church. Please return the card to the Parish Office or place it in the collection basket.

Thank you for your prayers for our continued success!

**SINGLE AND SINGLE AGAIN
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!**

When: Wednesday, December 31
from 9:00pm until 1:00am

Where: Empire Bowling Lanes
2490 Empire Blvd.
Webster

Cost is \$23.00 per person includes bowling, food and champagne at midnight! For reservations please call 671-1100 (M-F days) or 671-5449 (eves.) Deadline to register is Saturday, December 27. Come for food, fun and friends!

**CAREGIVERS
SUPPORT GROUP
will meet on**

**Monday, January 5
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.